

MADDIE & TAE
CELEBRATE SUCCESS
WITH THEIR FAMILIES

THIS WEEK'S NASH
FEATURING **ASHLEY MONROE**

COUNTRY WEEKLY

THE INSIDE STORIES OF
MARCH 30, 2015

★
TOOTSIE'S
TURNS
55
★

KENNY CHESNEY'S

*Big
Revival*

The superstar
kicks off his highly
anticipated world
tour and reveals
why he just can't
stay off the road

*Spring
Fashion*

WITH

**CASEY
JAMES**

**KELSEA
BALLERINI**

**JACKIE
LEE**

& MORE!

**KIX
BROOKS**

is the
humanitarian
we need

**RODNEY
ATKINS**

finally gets
his greatest
hits album

COUNTRYWEEKLY.COM

\$3.49US \$3.49CAN



13>

7 25274 51040 5

A man with a beard and mustache, wearing a black cowboy hat, a light blue long-sleeved button-down shirt with the sleeves rolled up to reveal a plaid shirt underneath, blue jeans, and a brown leather belt with a large silver buckle. He is standing in a junkyard-like setting with various metal scraps, a large rusted horseshoe, and a tall, ornate metal sculpture in the background under a clear blue sky.

COWBOY **TROY**



ROPER[®]
WEAR THE WEST

WWW.ROPERUSA.COM

THE SONGS, VIDEOS AND BITS OF COUNTRY CULTURE
WE JUST CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF RIGHT NOW!

THE HIT LIST

Surging Sturgill

▼ After back-to-back sold-out shows at Nashville's 3rd and Lindsley, **STURGILL SIMPSON** is continuing to prove he's the real deal. Harnessing the power of the Outlaw sound, Sturgill treated the packed house to samplings from his award-winning album *Metamodern Sounds in Country Music*, including fan favorite "Turtles All the Way Down." But he also rocked the stage with multiple bluegrass offerings, including Carter Stanley's "Could You Love Me One More Time."



Knight Moves

▲ **DIERKS BENTLEY**'s cover band Hot Country Knights warmed the crowd on a frigid Nashville night by singing joyous versions of classic '90s country hits with guests like **MIRANDA LAMBERT**, **RANDY HOUSER** and **LADY A**'s **CHARLES KELLEY**. The '90s can keep its appallingly bad fashion, but we'll take those songs any day.

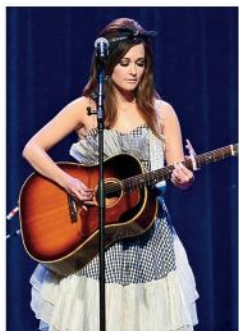
Lots to Love

► **SARAH GAYLE MEECH**, a standout performer heard mainly at Robert's Western World in Nashville, has a new album, *Tennessee Love Song*. And if you love your country with some kick-butt vocals and shining lyrics, this one's for you. Sarah Gayle combines California country rock with a poetic Southern sensibility to create a style that's all her own. Plus, she just won Female Outlaw of the Year at the Ameripolitan Awards in Austin.



It's All Gravy

► **KACEY MUSGRAVES** gave invited radio and media guests a tasty first peek at her new single, "Biscuits," during her label lunch at Country Radio Seminar in Nashville. The key line, *Mind your own biscuits and life will be gravy*, had everyone smiling and nodding in approval. Written by the same team behind "Follow Your Arrow" (Kacey, Brandy Clark and Shane McAnally), it's shaping up as another hit in the Kacey catalog.



The Brice Is Right

▼ It was his first time to headline the Ryman Auditorium and it was a sold-out show. No wonder **LEE BRICE** gave one of the most energetic and vocally compelling performances of his career. Long known in Nashville for his gravelly, warm voice, Lee drove that point home, showing incredible range, control and emotion, from the anthemic "Drinking Class" start to the heartfelt "I Don't Dance" encore.



THE JUKEBOX

Essential songs from
the artists featured
in this issue!

Kenny Chesney

"Til It's Gone"
"Wild Child"

Ashley Monroe

"Like a Rose"

Kristian Bush

"Trailer Hitch"

LOCASH

"I Love This Life"

Kix Brooks

"New to This Town"

Rodney Atkins

"Farmer's Daughter"

Frankie Ballard

"Young & Crazy"

Ray Scott

"Ain't Always Thirsty"

Moe Bandy

"Bandy the
Rodeo Clown"

Chase Bryant

"Take It On Back"

Whitehorse

"Downtown"

Casey James

"Drive"

Kelsea Ballerini

"The First Time"

Jackie Lee

"She Does"

rdio

Look for this
Country Weekly
playlist on **rdio**!

COVER STORY

44

Kenny Chesney

After taking a year off from touring, the King of the Road is ready to hit the concert trail again for The Big Revival Tour, which begins in Nashville. And he's bringing a boat-load of guests for the party, including Jake Owen, Brantley Gilbert and Cole Swindell.



20 | **Spring Fashion**

Kelsea Ballerini, Casey James and other stylish stars show off the hottest spring looks for work and play.

50 | **Tootsie's at 55**

Nashville's most famous watering hole, Tootsie's Orchid Lounge, celebrates a milestone birthday as it keeps on rocking.

54 | **Kix Brooks**

His philanthropic efforts are recognized as he receives the CMA Foundation Humanitarian Award.

56 | **Rodney Atkins**

There are plenty of stories behind his greatest hits, which are now collected on one super album—and there's more music on the way.

60 | **Ray Scott**

Getting into character proved an easy and somewhat memorable task for his new video, "Ain't Always Thirsty."

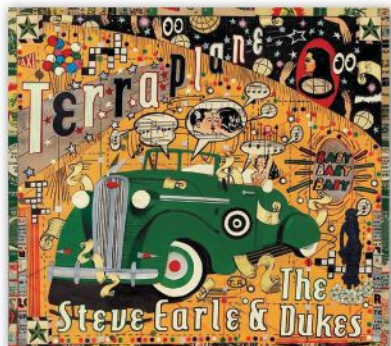
62 | **Moe Bandy**

Catching up with the energetic entertainer, who still loves to get out on the road and play the hits for his legion of fans.



27 NASH

Ashley Monroe gravitates to tunes that portray the sadder side of life. But she's "On to Something Good" with her new single, which marks a little shift in direction for the honey-voiced singer. Things are also looking bright for the duo LOCASH, with a brand-new tune on the radio and a progressive-minded label.



66

DON'T MISS A SINGLE ISSUE!

Subscribe at
CountryWeekly.com



60

1 | The Hit List

4 | Letters

6 | The Big Picture

8 | The Mix

Carrie Underwood and husband Mike Fisher welcome their new addition; Vince Gill set to play jammin' benefit at the Ryman.

16 | Behind the Song

"Trailer Hitch."

18 | Get Cookin'

Kix Brooks offers some steak tips and wine pairings.

43 | Hot Spots

Silo restaurant in Nashville.

58 | On Tour

Frankie Ballard.

66 | Reviews

Our views on singles from Gary Allan and David Fanning plus the long-awaited album from Steve Earle, *Terraplane*.

68 | On the Edge

70 | Stars Up Close

72 | Flashback

74 | Charts

76 | Puzzles

80 | Fill In the Blanks

Chase Bryant.

SUBSCRIPTION CUSTOMER SERVICE: e-mail us at cywcustserv@cdsfulfillment.com.

NASH Country Weekly (ISSN 1074-3235) Vol. 22 No. 13, is published weekly by Nash Country LLC, 506 2nd Ave. South, Suite 200, Nashville, TN 37210. Periodical rates of postage paid at Nashville, TN, and at additional mailing offices. Editorial offices located at Country Weekly, 506 2nd Ave. South, Suite 200, Nashville, TN 37210. Copyright © Nash Country LLC. 2015. All rights reserved. Subscription rate is \$110.00 a year in U.S. only. Subscriptions not available outside the U.S. **U.S. POSTMASTER AND SUBSCRIBERS:** Send all UAA to CFS (See DMM 707.4.12.5); NON-POSTAL AND MILITARY FACILITIES: Send subscription address changes and adjustments, write to Country Weekly, P.O. Box 37463, Boone, IA 50037-0463 or call 1-877-566-5832. **SUBSCRIBERS:** If the postal service alerts us that your magazine is undeliverable, we have no further obligation unless we receive a corrected address within one year. From time to time we make our subscriber list available to companies who sell goods and services by mail that we believe would interest our readers. If you would rather not receive such mailings, please send your current mailing label to: Country Weekly, P.O. Box 37463, Boone, IA 50037-0463. **PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.**

Z

[LETTERS]



Dear Readers:

He's baaack! After taking a year off the road, **KENNY CHESNEY** is back at it. The singer is kicking off his highly anticipated Big Revival Tour right here in good ol' Nashville. Not only that, he will be starting the tour on his 47th birthday. Happy birthday, Kenny! We spoke with the superstar about his time off and found out what we can expect from this outing, which will awaken arenas and stadiums across

the country. He's definitely excited to be back on the road with all his fans and will be hitting it with renewed energy. Catch Kenny when you can, and check out our cover story, beginning on page 44.

In this week's *NASH*, we talk to **ASHLEY MONROE** about her new single, "On to Something Good," and the kind of music she's drawn to. We hang out with **LOCASH** as they talk record deals, singles and wine; we give you one last shot to vote for your favorite superstar in our Music Madness poll at *CountryWeekly.com*; **KIX BROOKS** is in the studio with **BRETT ELDREDGE** and so much more.

Don't miss next week's issue, on stands March 30, when we get personal with one of *Country Weekly's* hottest bachelors, **GARY ALLAN**.

See you next week!

LISA KONICKI, Editor in Chief

Tell Us What YOU Think!

MAIL: Letters, *Country Weekly*,
506 2nd Ave. South, Suite 200, Nashville, TN 37210.

SEND E-MAIL TO: letters@countryweekly.com

Please include your name, address and daytime phone number with all correspondence. *Country Weekly* assumes no responsibility for returning unsolicited material, including, but not limited to, photographs, artwork, manuscripts and letters. Letters may be edited for clarity and length.



TRIBUTE TO TATER

I've been a subscriber to this magazine for many years and have thoroughly enjoyed it. I don't want to miss a single issue and look forward to the mailman coming so that I will get the next issue. Some artists have been on the cover many times. Since the death of Little Jimmy Dickens, I have been looking for an article about him and also to see his picture on the cover. This talented man, having been the oldest living member of the Grand Ole Opry and also a member for 48 years, deserves a tribute in this magazine. I am sincerely hoping that this magazine will not overlook such a talented, honest and sincere man. You will make this subscriber, and I am sure many more, very happy.

— CHARLENE HUBBARD
Kensington, Md.

EDITOR'S REPLY: Thank you for your letter, Charlene. We agree that Little Jimmy Dickens deserves a tribute and we did just that with a six-page story on him in our Feb. 2 issue.

MAGNIFICENT MIRANDA

Just wanted to say I loved seeing Miranda Lambert on the cover of the Feb. 2 issue. I like how [the article] showed the past 10 years of her career. They are amazing! I'm glad you recognized that she does a lot of charity work, not just for people but for animals also. I love reading your informative magazine.

— AMANDA BERGHOF
Williamstown, N.J.

DURANGO®

HEAD WEST

GET YOUR KICKS ON



OR AT DURANGBOOT.COM

866-442-4908



©2014

[THE BIG PICTURE]

GOLDEN MOMENT

Tim McGraw performed a moving rendition of Glen Campbell's Oscar-nominated "I'm Not Gonna Miss You" at the 87th annual Academy Awards.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL YADA/ABC

the mix

For the latest music news,
go to **COUNTRYWEEKLY.COM**

With a Little Help From My Friends

VINCE GILL is making a return trip to the Ryman Auditorium on March 31 for the 17th annual Jammin' to Beat the Blues benefit concert. Proceeds from the show, billed as Vince Gill & Friends, will benefit Mental Health America of Middle Tennessee. You can be sure that Vince will have more than a few of his friends—and surprise guests—in tow.

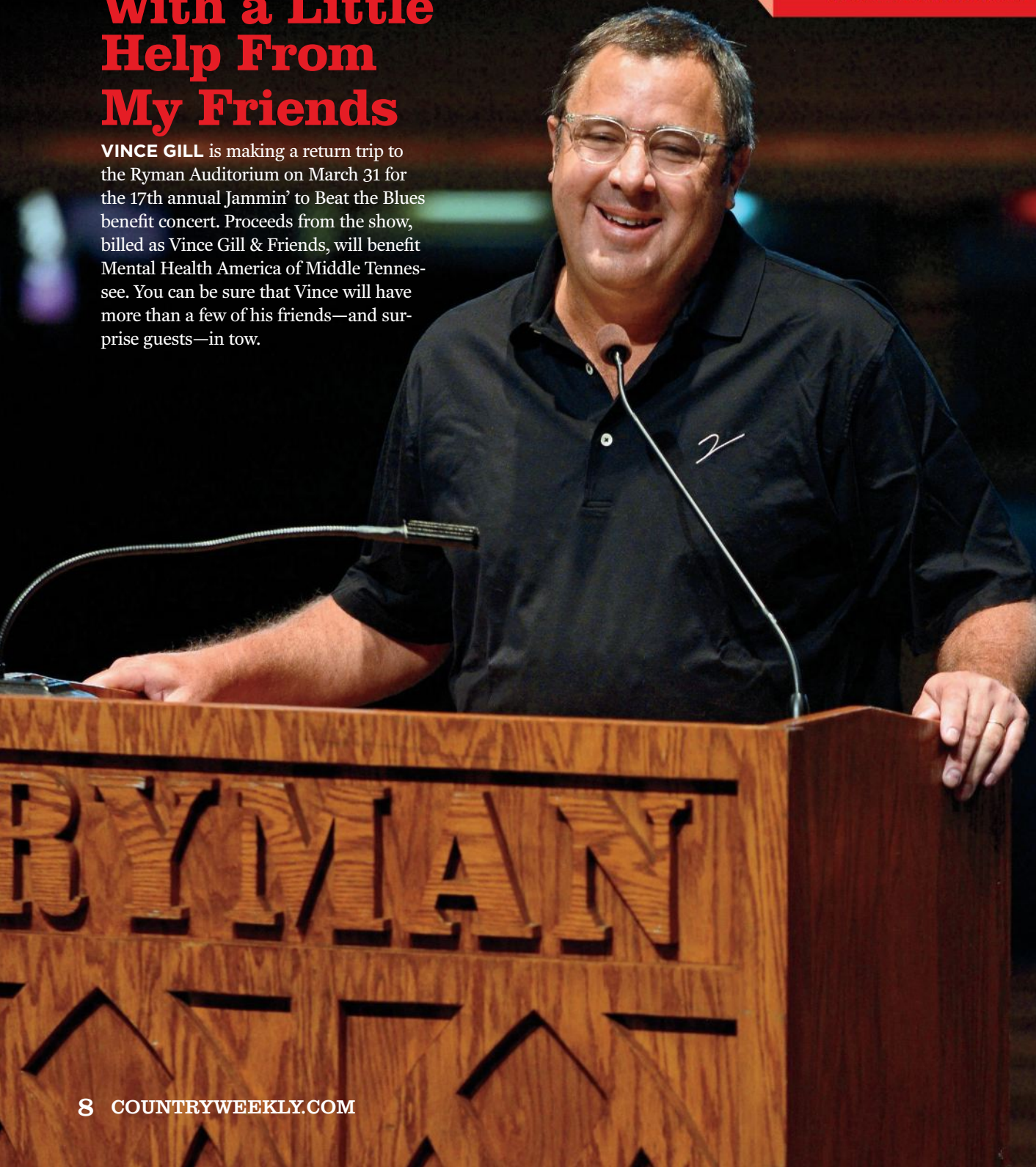


PHOTO BY JASON DAVIS/GETTY IMAGES

HOT SHOTS!

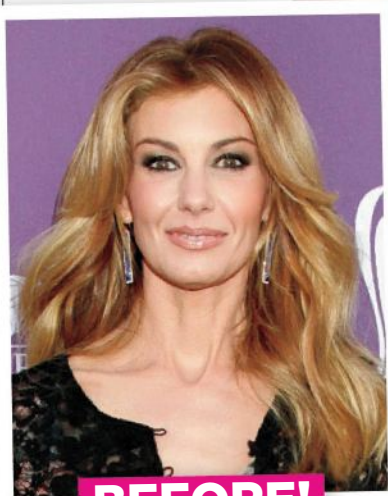


GAWRSH!

Luke Bryan increases his country street cred by posing with "Cowboy" Goofy at Magic Kingdom.

THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT

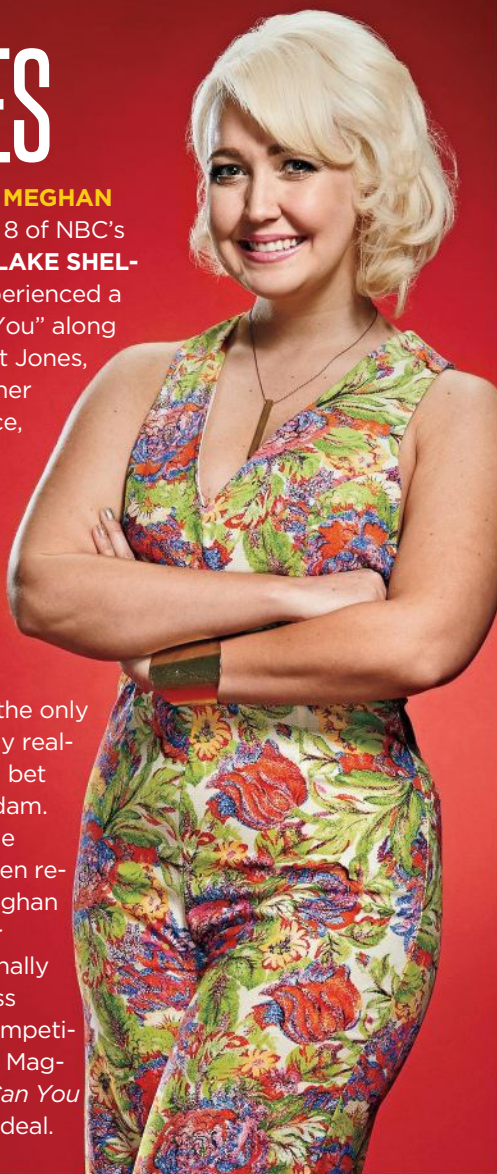
Faith Hill, with husband Tim McGraw, reveals her deliciously short locks to millions as they walk the red carpet at the 87th Annual Academy Awards.



BEFORE!

REALITY BITES

Former **STEEL MAGNOLIA** singer **MEGHAN LINSEY** is a contestant on Season 8 of NBC's *The Voice*, though not on Team **BLAKE SHELTON**. The country singer, who experienced a Top 10 hit with "Keep On Loving You" along with her duo partner, Joshua Scott Jones, made quite an impression during her blind audition. For her performance, she chose the Boudleaux Bryant song "Love Hurts"—a hit for Scottish hard rock band Nazareth that was also recorded by Gram Parsons, Roy Orbison and many others. Near the end of her song, coaches Adam Levine, Pharrell Williams and Christina Aguilera all spun around to vie for her. Blake, the only coach who didn't spin, immediately realized that he knew Meghan. "Now I bet you feel extra bad, huh?" joked Adam. "Actually, no, I don't, because if she hadn't have picked me I'd have been really pissed off," retorted Blake. Meghan ultimately chose Pharrell to be her coach. Interestingly, Meghan originally came into the public consciousness through another reality singing competition: she and Joshua formed Steel Magnolia on CMT's short-lived series *Can You Duet* before they got their record deal.



RaeLynn Heads Back to School

It hasn't been too long since **RAELYNN** was in class, but she went back this month to help spread the message "Always Sing" to students in six cities, including Nashville. The visits were part of the 2015 Music in Our Schools Tour, powered by Radio Disney. Supported by the Give a Note Foundation, which recognizes schools for their outstanding music programs, RaeLynn performed for students and spoke about the importance of music education in schools. And "Always Sing" was more than just a message. It was also a song that the sweet, petite blonde wrote specially for the students. That should land her solidly on the honor roll.



MUSICAL NOTES

BABY NEWS

▼ **CARRIE UNDERWOOD** and her husband, Mike Fisher, welcomed their first child, a son named Isaiah Michael, on Feb. 27. Carrie shared the big news via her Twitter account with a sweet picture of baby Isaiah's hand and mouth.



IN MEMORY

ALAN MAYOR, a noted and beloved Nashville photographer, died Feb. 23 at age 65 after suffering a series of strokes. Alan photographed nearly every country music celebrity during his career, along with No. 1 parties, awards shows and other industry events.

CHARITIES

▼ The band **BLACKHAWK** presented Nashville's Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center with a check for \$20,000 on behalf of the Van Stephenson Cancer Research Fund. The band started a relationship with the research lab in 2006 in honor of Van, one of BlackHawk's original members, who died of melanoma skin cancer in 2001.



LONG LIVE ex's that live in Texas.

LONG LIVE mornings in Amarillo.

LONG LIVE Fort Worth crossing your mind.

LONG LIVE the Lone Star's brightest.

LONG LIVE COWBOYS.®



GEORGE STRAIT

in Relaxed Fit Cowboy Cut Jeans



LONG LIVE COWBOYS.®

wrangler.com



You Don't Know Jack

There's not a more spirited name-drop in country music than **JACK DANIEL'S**. Old No. 7 is a tasty treat for whatever ails your favorite country singer, from heartbreak to breaking loose. So pour yourself a tumbler of Lynchburg, Tennessee's finest (assuming you're of age) and see if you can match the Jacked-up lyric to the country crooner.



1. Doublewide Quick Stop midnight T-top / **Jack** in her Cherry Coke town / Momma and Daddy put their roots right here / 'Cause this is where the car broke down

2. It's like a bottle of **Jack** straight to the head / One shot, two shot, copper-tone red

3. Sippin' on some cold **Jack Daniel's** / Jammin' to some old Alabama with you, baby

4. **Jack Daniel's**, if you please, knock me to my knees / You're the only friend there has ever been that didn't do me wrong

5. Guess every Superman has got his kryptonite / **Jack Daniel's** kicked my ass again last night

6. I bought a case of **Jack** / A boxed set of Merle / I'm gettin' ready / Ready for the end of the world

7. I've got my strength, and Lord knows I've got my weakness / Oh, I'm lost somewhere between **Jack Daniel's** and Jesus

8. I fell in love with **Jack Daniel's** again / He's the best kind of lover that there is / I can have him when I please / He always satisfies my needs

9. Everything I love is killin' me / Cigarettes, **Jack Daniel's** and caffeine

10. But you don't know **Jack** / Double shot, 80 proof, on the rocks / Until you've lost it all / And you can't go back



JASON ALDEAN



LUKE BRYAN



KENNY CHESNEY



MIRANDA LAMBERT



GEORGE STRAIT



CHASE RICE



DAVID ALLAN COE



ALAN JACKSON



ERIC CHURCH



FRANKIE BALLARD

ANSWERS: 1. Kenny Chesney; 2. Frankie Ballard; 3. Jason Aldean; 4. David Allan Coe; 5. Eric Church; 6. George Strait; 7. Chase Rice; 8. Miranda Lambert; 9. Alan Jackson; 10. Luke Bryan





Hidden by Dan Post

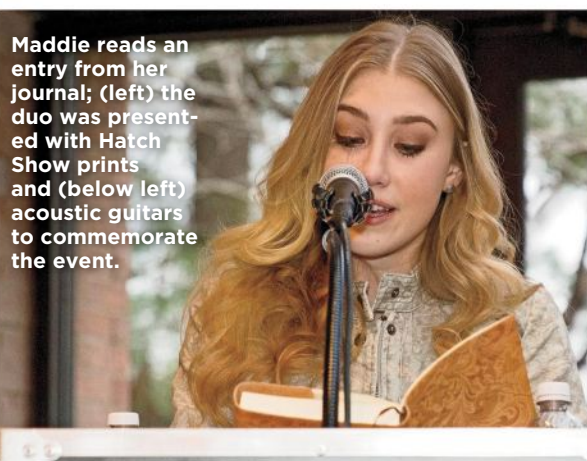
HANDCRAFTED CUSHION COMFORT®



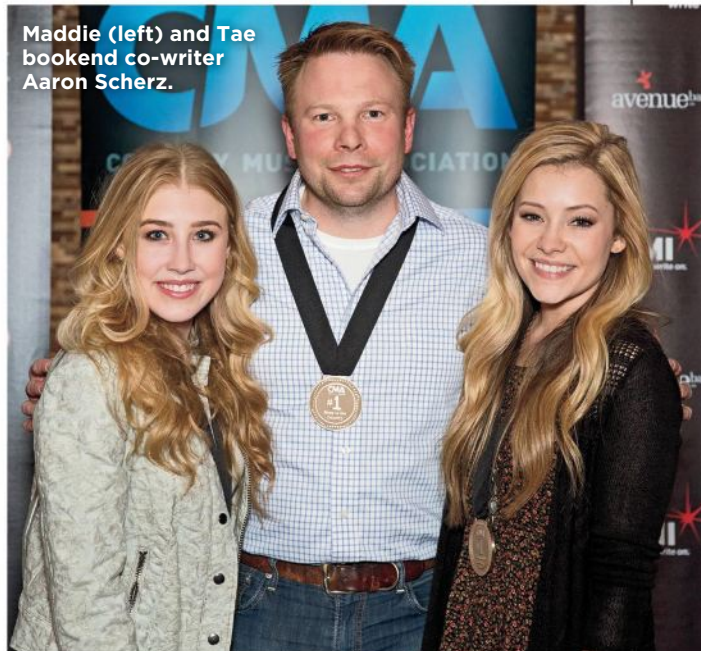
facebook.com/danpostboots
twitter: @danpostbootco
pinterest.com/danpostbootco
Instagram: @danpostbootco

www.danpostboots.com

Style DP3573



Maddie reads an entry from her journal; (left) the duo was presented with Hatch Show prints and (below left) acoustic guitars to commemorate the event.



PARTIES

“COUNTRY SONG” CELEBRATION

**MADDIE & TAE NO. 1 PARTY
CMA BUILDING, NASHVILLE**

The duo **MADDIE & TAE** appropriately picked Country Radio Seminar week in Nashville to celebrate the hit that was all over radio this past year, “Girl in a Country Song.” The single, which cleverly mocked the current bro-country trend, hit No. 1 for three weeks on the *Billboard* Hot Country Songs chart and launched the previously unknown tandem of Maddie Marlow and Tae Dye to extraordinary heights.

Maddie, Tae and the song’s co-writer, Aaron Scherz, celebrated the success of “Girl in a Country Song” at an industry party that touchingly became a family affair. Both of the young ladies teared up as they recalled the support of their families, who were on hand for the party. “I will never be able to thank you enough,” Tae said as she fought back the water-works. Turning toward Maddie, she sobbed, “Thank you for being the sister I never had.”

Maddie also became emotional as she shared that her dad was actually her first fan. “He saw my potential,” she recalled. Maddie also read from an entry in her journal dated May 26, 2014, the day the act signed with Dot Records. “I feel so blessed right now,” the entry stated in part. To close out the party, the ladies presented their parents with No. 1 plaques, a fitting end to an enormously happy occasion.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

GET **COUNTRY WEEKLY** DELIVERED
RIGHT TO YOUR MAILBOX!



If you reside in the U.S., you can subscribe or renew by
going to **CountryWeekly.com** or mailing in the form below

YES! Please send me:

- ☐ 1-year subscription for \$109.20
☐ 6-month subscription for \$67.60

(Allow 6-8 weeks for
delivery of your first issue.)

☐ **Payment enclosed**

(Check made payable to

Country Weekly must be enclosed
for order to be processed.)

Name: _____

Address: _____ Apt. _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Email: _____

Credit Card Type (check one)

- ☐ American Express
☐ Mastercard
☐ Visa
☐ Discover

Credit Card Number:

Credit Card Expiration Date

(MM/YY): _____

SEND THIS FORM TO:

**P.O. Box 37207
Boone, IA
50037-0207**

CYW VAC215

COUNTRY WEEKLY

THE INSIDE STORIES ON COUNTRY MUSIC'S HOTTEST STARS



HITCHING POST

JUST BECAUSE KRISTIAN BUSH had nearly 300 songs to sort through for his debut solo album, it didn't mean he was done writing for the project. The scruffy half of the on-hiatus duo Sugarland continued to make time to write with some of his favorite collaborators, including his brother Brandon. When songwriter Tim Owens made the trek from Nashville to Atlanta to Kristian's studio, the Bush brothers were ready to get to work.

As the session got underway, the three writers began collaborating on a specific song, but they stalled for a moment and started joking about various topics, prompting Tim to make an unusual statement. "He looked

at me and said, 'You know, Kristian, I've never seen a hearse with a trailer hitch,'" recalls the singer with a laugh. "I about fell out of my seat. I was like, 'We've got to write that song!'"

Tim roped them back in, insisting the song they started was the song they needed to finish. "I have a very bad habit of writing a song while I'm writing another song," Kristian admits. "The song in the middle of the song inevitably becomes the most popular one because you're thinking the least about it. There's really no pressure on it. You're just doing it."

Like they set out to do, they finished their original song, and Tim headed back on the road to Nash-

"TRAILER HITCH"

← Performed by
Kristian Bush

→ Written by
Kristian Bush,
Brandon Bush,
Tim Owens



TIM TIME

Tim Owens and Kristian Bush have shared success on the charts in the past with the Sugarland chart-topper "Settlin'," but Tim has also had hits with other acts, including Brad Paisley, Miley Cyrus and Craig Morgan.

ville. To Kristian's surprise, one week later, Tim returned to Atlanta to dig into more songs for Kristian's forthcoming album. Once Tim got settled, Kristian decided to revisit what was said in their previous writing session. "I thought it was both funny and true," Kristian says of the trailer hitch idea. "You've heard people say things like, 'I'm more nervous than a cat in a room of rocking chairs.' It would always crack me up when I would hear things like that, and this hit me in the same space.

"We thought it would be cool if we wrote, *You can't take it with you when you go*, and it would be something people would play in a club to dance to," Kristian adds.

In less than an hour, "Trailer Hitch" was finished, including a demo. It was added to the batch of songs selected for Kristian's *Southern Gravity* album, and to his surprise, "Trailer Hitch" was picked as the first single. "I just loved the song so much. It makes you dance, it tells the truth and you sing it. And it was a song that almost never happened," says Kristian. "I guess you can say it was the little song that could."

— ALANNA CONAWAY

ADVERTISEMENT

GET COUNTRY WEEKLY TO GO!

**DIGITAL
SUBSCRIPTION
SALE!**

**GET A YEAR OF
COUNTRY WEEKLY
FOR JUST
\$59.99**



Available on iPhone®, iPad®, Kindle Fire™, Nook™, Kobo™ and Android tablets and phones.



Apple, the Apple logo, iPhone and iPad are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. App Store is a service mark of Apple Inc. Kindle and Kindle Fire are trademarks of Amazon.com, Inc or its affiliates. NOOK is a registered trademark of BarnesandNoble.com LLC or its affiliates. Google Play is a trademark of Google Inc.

High Steaks

KIX BROOKS SHARES HIS TIPS ON TWO THINGS HE LOVES: STEAK AND WINE.

KIX BROOKS KNOWS A THING or two about cooking, and definitely more than a little about wine. Kix owns and operates his Arrington Vineyards winery outside of Nashville, which has become a popular local and tourist attraction. But the singer/songwriter is also on the verge of hosting his own show on the Cooking Channel, *Steakout With Kix Brooks*, which is currently in production. The show follows Kix as he visits iconic steakhouses across the country. Kix shares that the pilot episode, which aired in November, drew high enough ratings for *Steakout* to earn a regular spot in the network's lineup.

"It looks like it will start to run in the third quarter of this year," Kix says. Until then, check out Kix's tips for cooking a steak indoors, and the wines to enjoy along with it.

— BOB PAXMAN

WINE PAIRINGS:

"Classically, you go with the big reds, like a cabernet or a merlot," says Kix. "It makes the whole experience better."

Kix Brooks' Steak

1 rib-eye or T-bone

Salt and pepper to taste

"I take the steak and put it dry on a black skillet [on the stovetop] and brown it on both sides real good," Kix says. "Then, I'll put it in the oven [preheated to 450°] for about a minute or so on each side. That's pretty foolproof." Also, make sure you let the steak "rest" for a few minutes after removing it from the oven.





Miss
Kate

Style 52138



facebook.com/danpostboots
twitter: @danpostbootco
pinterest.com/danpostbootco
instagram: @danpostbootco

www.danpostboots.com

 **Laredo**[®]
WESTERN BOOTS

THE STYLED BUNCH

***It's a fashion shootout at high noon
for country music's newest stars.***

PHOTOS BY ASHLEY HYLBERT

MUCH LIKE AN ASPIRING COUNTRY STAR, Nashville's The Sutler Saloon—which has hosted artists like Johnny Cash and Emmylou Harris—has survived some hard knocks and growing pains over the years. The one-time restaurant and dive bar has recently been resurrected as a hip eatery and live music venue located in the up-and-coming Melrose neighborhood of Nashville. With its warm colors, rich textures and a bar that harkens back to the Wild West, The Sutler made the perfect backdrop for our young guns of country to draw a couple of questions while posing for our spring fashion photo shoot.

— TAMMY RAGUSA

A full-body photograph of Kelsea Ballerini. She is wearing a large black wide-brimmed hat, a colorful striped poncho with white fringe, a black top, black jeans, and brown studded high-heeled sandals. She has her arms raised and a joyful expression. The background is a wall with a dark red floral damask pattern.

Kelsea Ballerini

SINGLE: "Love Me Like You Mean It"

She's as bubbly as a bottle of pop, so it makes sense that this sweet young chanteuse from Knoxville, Tenn., might enjoy some Top 40 tunes. "I grew up on pop music, but I also grew up on a farm, so I feel like my music is honestly pop country because that's just where my roots are," she explains. "And I've always been drawn to the storytelling in the lyrics and the stories of country music and then the beats and melodies and hooks of pop, so I feel like my music is influenced by both of those things." If that sounds complicated, don't worry, just enjoy it.

As far as her fashion goes, Kelsea's tastes are much more simple. "A good pair of skinny black jeans and boots and a fun T-shirt and jacket" are her go-tos, she says. "And I love statement necklaces whether I'm onstage or just out doing whatever."

KELSEA IS WEARING:

Peter Grimm hat from Boot Barn
Wrangler fringed open cardigan
BDG pants from Urban Outfitters
ALDO shoes
Shyanne jewelry from Boot Barn



CASEY IS WEARING:
Durango Leather Co. jacket
Custom tee
Artist's own jewelry
Pants from H&M

Casey James

SINGLE: "Fall Apart"

Casey James was blessed with that almost cherubic face, and there's no doubt he has a heart of gold, but put a guitar in his hand and his Cool—yes, Cool, Texas—swagger is undeniable. "My musical style is all of my influences mixed up and put in the oven and baked into something that, hopefully, people like," he says. "It's rock 'n' roll and blues and country and soul and all those things kind of wrapped into one."

Casey works pretty faithfully on his music, so he doesn't want to spend a lot of time thinking about what to wear. "I'm a fan of having set outfits aside, so if I go to an event, I'm going to wear this, and if I go to the stage, I'm going to wear this," he explains. "I really don't like to think about it. At some point, I figure it out and go, 'OK, I like this, I feel comfortable with this,' and I know what I'm going to wear for the next three months."

A full-page photograph of Olivia Lane in a rustic country bar. She is sitting on a wooden piano, leaning back with her legs crossed and arms resting on her knees. She is wearing a dark brown, sleeveless, fringed dress and brown cowboy boots with floral patterns. A large, ornate chandelier hangs from the ceiling, and a sign in the background reads "SOUTHERN".

Olivia Lane

SINGLE: "Steal Me Away"

Everything is bigger in Olivia's Houston homeland, and that may have helped shape who she would eventually become musically. "I'm influenced by all the big female voices in country music like Linda Ronstadt, Trisha Yearwood and Reba," she admits, "and I'm a very positive person, so I feel like it's a combination of big voice mixed with positive, up-tempo, fun, heartfelt, dream, going-for-it kinds of songs."

The Lone Star State even influences bits of Olivia's look, which she says is a "work in progress." Dress, leggings, boots and a hat are her current favorites, but, she adds, "I have certain lucky jewelry, so I always wear a big star ring or a Texas necklace, something that's intimate to me at the moment. I like to start my days off with some good luck."

OLIVIA IS WEARING:

Durango Leather Co. dress

Shyanne jewelry

Shyanne boots from Boot Barn

A full-page photograph of Jackie Lee standing on a wooden staircase in a boot barn. The walls are covered in hundreds of cowboy boots of various styles and colors. A single light bulb hangs from the ceiling, casting a warm glow. Jackie is leaning against the wooden railing of the stairs, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. He is wearing a brown leather jacket over a blue button-down shirt and dark jeans. His hands are in his pockets.

Jackie Lee

SINGLE: "She Does"

He may look like a movie star, all tall, dark, handsome and, oh, those big, beautiful eyes, but this Maryville, Tenn., native is definitely a country crooner. "There's a little bit of soul in there and definitely country," he says of his voice. "I grew up listening to '90s country. I love to sing big melodies and I love to chase big ideas in songs. It's very eclectic because I go from one end of a genre to the other."

He's a little less eclectic when it comes to what he'll wear, but from where we stand, that's perfectly OK. "I don't look too good in skinny jeans," he says, laughing, "but I do like tighter jeans, a button-up shirt and I do like cowboy boots."

JACKIE IS WEARING:

Durango Leather Co. jacket
Wrangler Retro shirt
Hudson jeans
Cody James boots from
Boot Barn

Haley & Michaels

SINGLE: "Just Another Love Song"

Young couple Shannon Haley and Ryan Michaels complement each other in every sense of the word. "We both grew up loving country music, even though we're from California," Shannon says. "And we try to write songs that show both perspectives, a man and a woman. And we try to be a pure duo." Ryan admits that small differences keep them interesting. "When it comes to the music part," he says, "we both have a lot of other influences. For me, a lot of rock, and for Shannon, pop, singer/songwriter."

Even their individual fashion tastes work well together. Ryan doesn't typically get too adventurous. "I only wear black, so my style is black. Except for in this photo shoot, and I really like this shirt," he says. "I always like things that are black and a little on the edgier side." For her part, Shannon has to tinker. "I never know what I'm going to like until I try it on, and some things just feel like me or they don't," she admits. But she knows what her look isn't. "I don't look good in pastel colors or styles too girly."

RYAN IS WEARING:

Roper shirt
Diesel jeans
Durango boots
Hemp cuff from Brennan Byers
for GBB Custom Leather

SHANNON IS WEARING:

BIYA dress by Johnny Was
Durango boots
Shyanne jewelry from Boot Barn

Country Weekly Readers Get 10% Off!

Find the majority of the brands featured in our spring fashion pictorial at bootbarn.com.

Plus, save 10% off your next Boot Barn order when you use the coupon code: **PUBCWF315**.

Valid on regular-priced items. Excludes UGG® Australia, Levi's, Timberland Pro, Frye, Double-H, Carhartt, Wrangler 13MWZ, 47MWZ, 936DEN and gift cards. Cannot be combined with any other offer.



John King

SINGLE: "On Your Lips"

He's just a hardworking, good ol' boy from Demorest, Ga., but John King's music has a decided edge. He describes it as "fun, loud and energetic," but combining several elements.

"It's rock and country, a little bit hillbilly and fun," he says. It makes sense that he grew up listening to Southern rockers like Lynyrd Skynyrd and The Allman Brothers Band.

While he may rock out onstage, John wants to be comfortable offstage, so he leans on the ladies in his life to help him out. "My mom did all my shopping for me growing up, and my wife now kind of dresses me," he says with a laugh. "I like simple stuff, stuff that's comfortable. I grew up working construction, and working outside and working with my hands, so that kind of style, stuff that lasts. I'm just a country boy." CW

JOHN IS WEARING:

Cody James shirt
Cody James belt
Buckle from Boot Barn
Wrangler Retro jeans
Durango boots

16 Extra Pages!

NASH
MAGAZINE

PHOTO COURTESY WMG

LOCASH
BACK WITH
NEW MUSIC
& NEW WINE

VOTE NOW
MUSIC
MADNESS
FINALS

KIX BROOKS
IN THE
STUDIO WITH
**BRETT
ELDREDGE**

LITTLE MS. SUNSHINE

FRESH OFF A NO. 1
HIT WITH BLAKE
SHELTON, ASHLEY
MONROE IS "ON TO
SOMETHING GOOD"



BEGINNING AGAIN

A NEW SINGLE
AND RECORD
DEAL HAS
LOCASH LOVING
THIS LIFE.

STORY BY
ALANNA CONAWAY

After a successful Livin' Loud Tour in 2014, LOCASH is hitting the road with their I Love This Life Tour in 2015.



LOCASH BY JAKE HARSH/WEBSTER PR; PERF COURTESY WEBSTER PR

WHILE CHRIS LUCAS AND PRESTON BRUST

released a full-length album in 2013 that produced the singles “Chase a Little Love” and “Best Seat in the House,” the guys—known at the time as Lo-Cash Cowboys—couldn’t get past the 50s on the charts with either song. They parted ways with their label and linked up with a new partner, Reviver Records, a year later, simplifying their name to LOCASH. Since then, they’ve been hard at work on their sophomore album and preparing to make the most of their new start.

“We never had a fair shot at this thing until now,” Chris tells **NASH** with excitement in his eyes. “People always say, ‘Oh, you guys have been out before.’ Well, not really. Everybody knows us because we tour a lot, but none of our songs ever went up the charts because we never had a team behind us that shared our vision. Until now.”

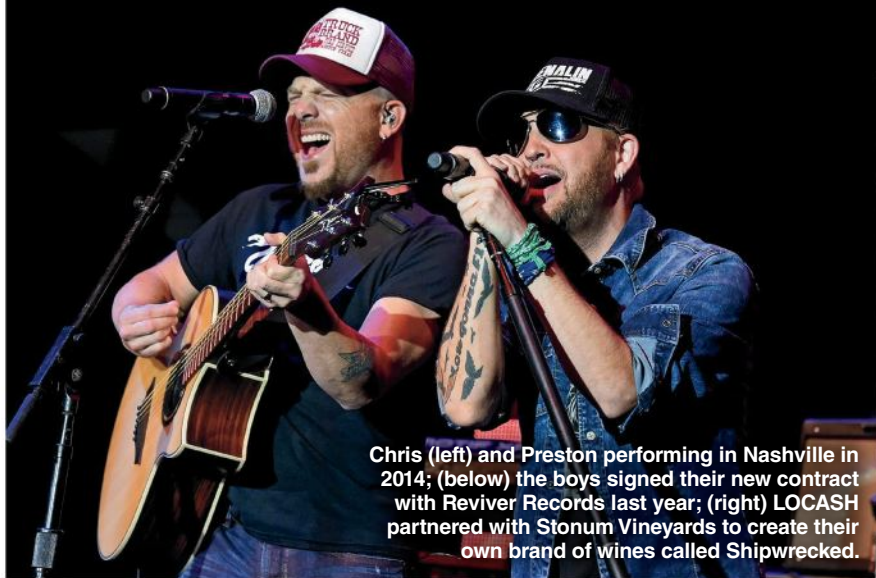


“We’ve just been the victims of some record deals that kind of went south,” adds Preston. “But this one’s not. We have a really strong team with great minds and great knowledge about this industry to get it done. I feel like they have the ability and the resources to do what we all want to do. Everybody feels the buzz. It’s amazing.”

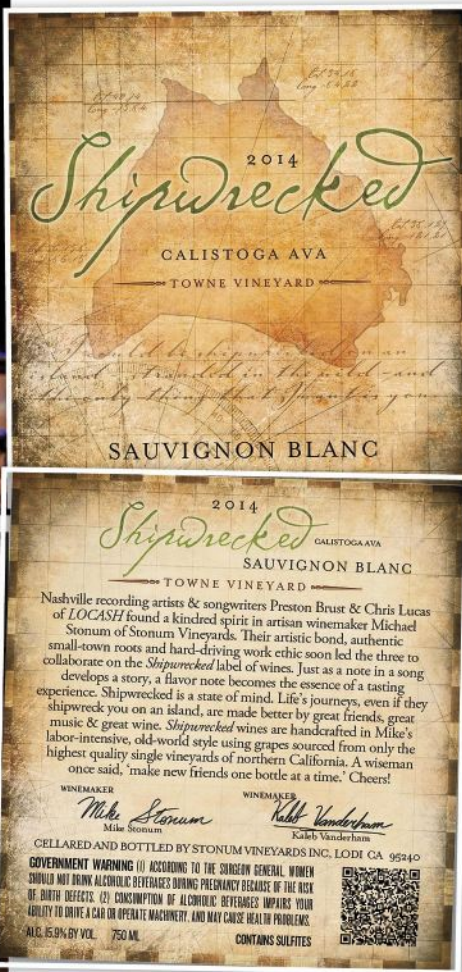
The duo’s new album will include a mixture of all things LOCASH, including tunes to fuel their energetic live shows as well as heartfelt songs that reflect their growth as songwriters and artists. “I can’t wait for everyone to hear this new music,” Preston says. “These songs are special. Although we’ve put out an album in the past, this feels like the true debut of LOCASH.”

The first single from the forthcoming project is “I Love This Life,” which is already on track to become their biggest country radio song to date. Chris and Preston reunited with “Truck Yeah” collaborators Chris Janson and Danny Myrick for the song and tried their best to capture something that would make people feel good.

“We wanted to write something positive because all you hear about in the world is the negative all the



Chris (left) and Preston performing in Nashville in 2014; (below) the boys signed their new contract with Reviver Records last year; (right) LOCASH partnered with Stonum Vineyards to create their own brand of wines called Shipwrecked.



LOCASH CONTINUED

time,” Chris says. “We wanted to make it happy, so it’s three minutes and 10 seconds of all the things that make you happy about life.”

“This is the strongest start we’ve ever had and it feels great to have so many friends at radio spinning ‘I Love This Life,’” says Preston. “We’ve felt what it feels like to write a No. 1 for Keith Urban [‘You Gonna Fly’] and what it feels like to hear Tim McGraw rock out to a song we wrote, but we’ve never felt what it feels like to see LOCASH on top of the charts with our very own hit. We’re pumped about that possibility.”

In addition to the new music, LOCASH is expanding into the world of wine—one of the guys’ passions—through the family-owned Stonum Vineyards in the heart of Northern California’s wine country. Chris and Preston partnered with Stonum to create their very own line of wines called Shipwrecked, so named for the

follow-up single to “I Love This Life.”

“They asked us a lot about grapes and where we wanted to get them for the wine,” says Chris. “They were very detailed with what we liked when it comes to wine in order to come up with the perfect blend. We’re so excited about it!”

The first product of Shipwrecked will be the sauvignon blanc, priced at \$28 per bottle and available on April 4. During the course of the next several months, they will also release a cabernet and chardonnay.

Fans of LOCASH will especially enjoy the wine labels, as Chris and Preston were heavily involved with the design. “Because it’s called Shipwrecked, it looks like an old map where maybe the treasure is hidden,” Preston explains. “It looks like an island right there on the front. There are also a lot of hidden things in the design that are personal to us.”

That’s an indication of the degree of passion and involvement that LO-

CASH puts into every aspect of their career, but now it’s becoming more evident than ever. Now, with a supportive record label working on their behalf, the guys are finally starting to see the fruits of their labor.

“We’ve got a good team behind us, and we don’t have to do it all, which we’ve always done,” notes Chris. “We still put our hands in every pile we can and stir it as much as possible, but when you have a good team like this, you don’t have to do it as much.”

“I still feel like we’re a couple of the hardest-working guys out there,” Preston agrees. “We are gone three and four weeks straight doing radio stuff to get this thing off the ground. But for some reason, it doesn’t feel like we’re trying as hard to make it happen. It’s just happening as we work hard. In a moment like right now, it just feels like it’s lining up for us. It’s moving real smooth, and as long as we’re all working hard and stay focused, we’re going to get to where we want to go.” ■

Hollywood Hillbillies



Gettin' hitched.

SEASON PREMIERE
Saturday, April 11
9ET/10PT

 **REELZ**
CHANNEL

DISH
299

DIRECTV
238

AT&T U-Verse
799

FiOS
233

To find REELZ on your local
cable provider, visit **REELZ.com**

Rose-Sin



ASHLEY COURTESY/WMG MIRANDA & ASHLEY BY FRANK PICCIOTTA/AP/CORBIS

ted

ASHLEY MONROE FINDS HER GROOVE WITH AN OPTIMISTIC NEW SINGLE.

STORY BY JON FREEMAN



Ashley (right) still works closely with her Pistol Anniies bandmate Miranda Lambert.

There's a popular misconception about Ashley Monroe, one that casts her as country music's brooding, doe-eyed angel of despair. And, well, you could probably be forgiven for thinking that, considering that Ashley's previous album, *Like a Rose*, was full of exquisitely sad tunes like the title track and "The Morning After."

"That's always kind of been what I'm drawn to," admits Ashley, seated at a conference table in her label's headquarters, surrounded by an assortment of healthy snack foods, which she happily shares. "That's what I want to write, when my heart's hurting. But I think it's important to show everything I can do, not just the gut-punching sad ones."

As anyone who ever giggled when they heard Ashley's "Weed Instead of Roses" will tell you, this East Tennessee native has a much bigger arsenal at her disposal than weepy country songs. She can expertly cut the heart-break with humor, as she did on the unwed-and-pregnant twangfest "Two Weeks," or she can conjure up a gleeful crime saga like "Monroe Suede."

And yet, even knowing all those

things, it's still surprising to hear Ashley's latest single, "On to Something Good," which reunites her with *Like a Rose* producer Vince Gill. Gone are the honky-tonk trappings of *Like a Rose*, replaced by a soulful groove and lush production with chiming electric guitars and B3 organ. Ashley wrote the song with Barry Dean and Luke Laird, and admits the process forced her to switch off her default setting.

"Writing an up-tempo positive [song] is like the hardest thing in the world for me. I tend to just go dark and sad," she says, laughing. "I thought, I want to challenge myself to write something that has meat to it, that the lyrics mean something, that still makes you move and feel good and feel something, and I really feel like I did."

Lyrically, it's a potent message of being fearless and taking risks even if it means getting knocked down—or, in Ashley's case, sometimes being apart from her husband, Chicago White Sox pitcher John Danks. *Lost or found, I'm better dancing when I don't look down*, she sings at the top of the infectious choruses. "That's kind of my analogy for life. If I sit here and just freak out and go," she says, miming franti-

*"I'm gonna do
my part
for sure,
but nothing's
a promise
and nothing's
for certain."*



cally, "What if it doesn't work or, oh God, what if I can't see my husband a lot and we're both busy or what if this happens?" We could do that all day every day, but it's better living when you just close your eyes and just go for it."

Even visually, "On to Something Good" signals a shift for Ashley. The single artwork depicts her on a sunny lawn in a fringy, pastel-colored dress, standing in front of a mid-century modern California home. The artwork for *Like a Rose*, by comparison, was a hazy shot of Ashley holding an umbrella. That bright, sunny California feel was something Ashley actually had in mind for her new album.

"Right when I started making the record and kind of knew what songs I was gonna do, I would send images of [Andy Warhol acolyte] Edie Sedg-

wick and Sharon Tate," she explains. "Those were two of my main inspirations, from my eye makeup to the outfits—minus the heroin for Edie—that free spirit, '60s mod thing."

So far only the single has been released for public consumption, but Ashley says her new album will feature songs she wrote with Vince as well as Miranda Lambert, Chris Stapleton and Raconteurs singer Brendan Benson—a tune that includes vocals from Alison Krauss and Dan Tyminski. And yes, there are also a lot of sad songs apart from "On to Something Good." "This is as happy as it gets on the whole record," says Ashley, laughing.

There is a master plan afoot here. *Like a Rose* rightly earned Ashley a ton of acclaim, but the collection's traditional style wasn't favored by radio.

Still, the album laid the groundwork for what's next, but Ashley wanted her new stuff like "On to Something Good" to have more "oomph." "I just wanted to knock everything up a notch: the music, the production, the image, all of it," she says. "I knew my intention way before if I knew I was going on a radio tour, or if there would even be a song released to radio."

Ashley may actually be set up for radio success this time around. Recently, she got to ride to the top of the country charts with her friend Blake Shelton as a duet partner on "Lonely Tonight," keeping his record-breaking streak of consecutive No. 1 songs alive. "What a thing to watch something actually work," she says, laughing.

Her team is wisely choosing to release "On to Something Good" to



(Clockwise from below) Ashley with husband John Danks; art for *Like a Rose* and “On to Something Good”; performing with her producer, Vince Gill; with “Lonely Tonight” duet partner Blake Shelton



country radio right on the heels of that chart success. Theoretically, fans have gotten used to hearing her distinctive voice on Blake’s song and will recognize it when “On to Something Good” begins to receive some airplay.

“[It’s] definitely handy that I’m on the radio right now with him,” she says. “It’d be amazing for them to say, ‘OK, we’ll switch her from this to this.’ I hope that that works out. I’m gonna do my part for sure, but nothing’s a promise and nothing’s for certain.”

Certainly some among Blake’s hordes of fans have discovered Ashley’s solo work through her appearance on “Lonely Tonight,” though a few are choosing to interpret the hook-up song as a real threat to Ashley’s Pistol Annies bandmate Miranda Lambert and not just art. “They

think I’m trying to steal him from Miranda or something,” she says. “I read some of those things and it’s like, oh my gosh, guys, if you only knew how us three work, you would not be worried.”

The duet with Blake is part of another interesting trend with Ashley: her Emmylou Harris-like ability to collaborate with seemingly anyone and still sound like herself. She somehow ties together the disparate worlds of Blake, Jack White’s Raconteurs, Train and Wanda Jackson.

“We all love music. That’s the common denominator there, is that all of us are really big fans of music. I just sing the same way every time,” she says, laughing. “[That’s] the interesting thing. You could listen to ‘Lonely Tonight’ or The Raconteurs and you

can tell it’s the same person.”

Considering that one of the complaints leveled against new female country artists by country radio is a lack of anything distinguishing, Ashley stands in direct opposition by being immediately identifiable no matter the setting. And with the endlessly groovy “On to Something Good” introducing this next phase of Ashley, radio will have to come up with some new excuses if they don’t want to play her.

Ashley, well aware that she’s a little left of center, diplomatically reasons that she may yet have her day even if this single doesn’t work.

“Any genre of music, look how it cycles,” she says. “I figure if I just keep on doing what I’m doing, it’s bound to line up at some point where I’m what it is.” ■

NASH MUSIC MADNESS?

THE SUPER 16



64%



36%



34%



66%



35%



65%



41%



59%

THE GREAT 8



56%



44%



55%



45%

THE FAB 4



15%



85%

THE WEST

THE F



COMPIL
JIM CA

3. CARRIE UNDERWOOD (OKLAHOMA)

- Grammy Best Country Solo Performance
- ACM Special Achievement Award
- *Billboard* No. 1 album

And then there were two. We started our Nash Music Madness bracket with 16 of the hottest stars in country music. After three rounds and thousands of votes from YOU—the readers—it comes down to the West's No. 3 seed, Carrie Underwood, versus the East's No. 6 seed, Kenny Chesney. Carrie defeated No. 6 Keith Urban, No. 2 Blake Shelton and No. 1 Miranda Lambert to win the West, while Kenny disposed of No. 3 Jason

WHO WILL VISIT COUNTRY AND VOTE

FGL BY ALBERTO RODRIGUEZ/NICKELODEON; BLAKE, DIERKS, M&T, JASON, SAM BY JOHN RUSSELL/CMA; GARTH BY VINCENT MUZIK/CORBIS; MIRANDA BY JASON MERRITT/ACM; KEITH BY ERIC HENDERSON/CORBIS; KACEY BY ALBERT FERREIRA/ABC; LUKE BY IMAGE SPACE INC./CORBIS; STUR-GILL BY TERRY WYATT/SHORE FIRE MEDIA; KENNY BY TAMMIE ARROYO/AFI; ERIC BY BYRON PURVIS/CORBIS; TIM BY DEBBY WONG/CORBIS

In honor of college basketball's craziest month, *NASH* created a bracket with 16 of the hottest solo/duo acts in country music. We seeded them based on the strength of their current "season" and pitted them against each other in a winner-takes-all format that features East vs. West. For the next week, visit CountryWeekly.com and VOTE on who you think should win the final head-to-head battle and be crowned champ.

FINALS

ED BY
ASEY



6. KENNY CHESNEY (TENNESSEE)

- ACC Groundbreaker Award
- *Billboard* No. 1 album
- RIAA platinum song

MAGAZINE

CHAMPION

LE IN OUR
IL &
UE

MADNESS

Aldean, No. 7 Sam Hunt and No. 1 Luke Bryan to win the East. The tournament was

ripe with upsets, but both Carrie and Kenny found ways to persevere. Now the two superstars will finish the dance by going head-to-head in our first winner-takes-all Nash Music Madness. Not only will the victor have bragging rights for the rest of the year, but the inaugural champion will also be featured on next week's *NASH* cover, so don't forget to vote.

WIN IT ALL?
YWEELY.COM
E TODAY!

THE FAB 4



THE GREAT 8



THE SUPER 16



THE EAST



The Daily Catch

KIX REELS **BRETT ELDREDGE** INTO THE STUDIO TO SEE WHAT IT'S LIKE BEING A BIG FISH IN A LITTLE POND.

KIX: What do you think is the key to career longevity?

BRETT: Being 100 percent you. If you try to fake something, it might work for a little bit, but you gotta be you and let your fans see that. Country music fans are so loyal, and if you treat them right, they are going to treat you right.

KIX: What do you think is your strongest talent?

BRETT: I love to write songs and all that, but I started as a 4-year-old kid singing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" and the national anthem. I had this big voice that wanted to come out of me, and I wanted to figure out how to do that. All I knew is that I could sing, and my body would shake I had such a big voice. I don't want to harness that, I want to let that go. And my thing has always been, get that voice out there, whenever I can. I don't care if I'm singing in the corner of the room and there are two people listening, I want to do that. I want to grab ahold of somebody, I want to make them feel something and I want to move them to an emotion. That's the most beautiful feeling, when you're onstage and whenever you are holding out a note extra long and you might see that tear in somebody's eye or

you might see somebody dancing. That's what I feel maybe I do best. It's just what I want to do. It's just what comes out of me. That's always been my thing, is my voice first and foremost, and that's why I moved to Nashville. And I love to do it.

KIX: Well, you are a great singer.

BRETT: Thank you.

KIX: What are your plans for 2015?

BRETT: I'm out doing a lot of clubs on my own right now. Then I'll be with Darius [Rucker] this summer. I love Darius. I've always loved his music and so I'm excited about being out there with him. We've always connected in a cool way and he asked me to come out and tour and I was more than happy to do it. So, it's going to be a cool summer. Now, I just gotta learn how to play golf.



Award-winning musician **KIX BROOKS** hosts the national radio shows *American Country Countdown* and *Kickin' It With Kix*.

KIX: You don't play golf?

BRETT: I play a little bit, but not like he does.

KIX: Save your money [*laughs*].

BRETT: [*Laughs*] I'd rather go fishing, but I'll try and learn golf.

KIX: Do you ever go fishing on the road?

BRETT: Oh yeah, I've got fishing poles underneath the bus right now. They are just sitting there just waiting to be casted.

KIX: What do you like to fish for?

BRETT: I love fishing for everything. I like to go deep-sea fishing. I love catching tuna and eating them right there on the boat. I've done that. And I like to go in a pond, in my small hometown, a small farm pond, and catch them and fry them right there on the bank and eat them right there. I just love to fish. I love the stories about it and I love the simplicity of it and how it can kind of get you away from everything.

NASH | *ON the SCENE*

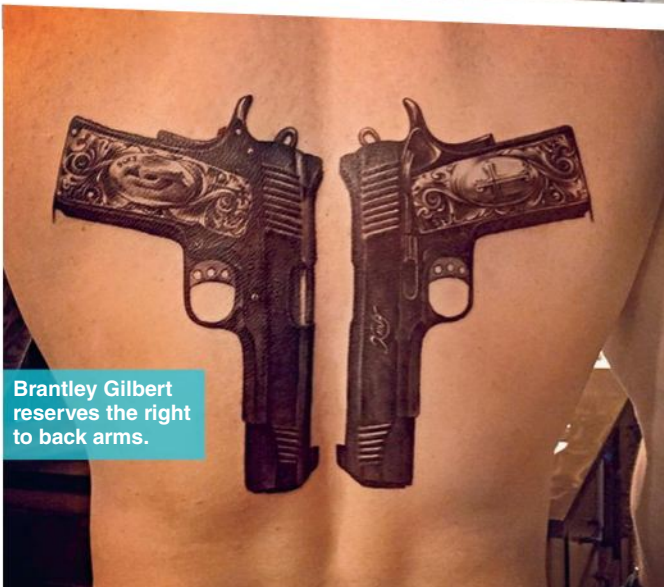
OUT AND ABOUT WITH
YOUR FAVORITE STARS!



This is what
Larry the Cable
Guy likes to call a
#Git-R-DoneFAIL.



Dave Haywood's son,
Cash, takes the prize
for cutest baby.



Brantley Gilbert
reserves the right
to back arms.



Scotty McCreery
proves there are
no small parts, just
small productions.



Craig Campbell would like
to take this opportunity to
quote the late, great Patrick
Swayze: "Pain don't hurt."



It's abundantly clear
that Kip Moore and
his band have a keen
eye for fashion. How-
ever, we still suggest
turning to our fashion
guide on page 20.

CASH COURTESY OF CRAIG CAMPBELL; INSTAGRAM: TATTOO COURTESY OF BRANTLEY GILBERT; INSTAGRAM: DAVE & CASH COURTESY OF LARRY THE CABLE GUY; FACEBOOK: KIP & BAND
COURTESY OF KIP MOORE; INSTAGRAM: OSCAR COURTESY OF SCOTT MCCREERY; INSTAGRAM: LARRY THE CABLE GUY; INSTAGRAM: CRAIG CAMPBELL

#RootsWingsRAM

RAM & MIRANDA

Roots



LAMBERT PRESENT

W. PRESSLER'S MAP
OF THE
STATE
OF
TEXAS

AND WINGS



Exclusively at YouTube.com/RamTrucks

GUTS-GLORY



RAM

Ram is a registered trademark of FCA US LLC

NASH | SOUND BITES

WHAT YOUR FAVORITE STARS ARE SAYING ON NASH-FM

It was late in the evening, maybe after a show, and one of us just started playing this, and we thought the bigger girls out there need a little love. Especially the ones with a little extra back in the back.

JUSTIN MOORE

about co-writing his song
"I Want It to Be Yours"

I think it's fun to go see things and be a tourist and get to play for people who have never heard your music or never seen a show or any of that stuff.

JASON ALDEAN

on playing shows in Europe

It's mind-blowing. We write a lot of songs and for one to be heard is a miracle. The odds are crazy. So it is kind of wild and you are just grateful that somehow people got to hear it.

ERIC PASLAY

on the success of his song "Friday Night"

There's not an album that I've put out or produced, by any of the artists that I've either worked with or created, that he hasn't played on.

KRISTIAN BUSH

about his brother
Brandon

It reminds me a little bit of where I come from and of what country music has sounded like in the past with a little bit of what's going on now mixed into it.

RANDY HOUSER

about his song "Like a Cowboy"

He's special. When we were putting the tour together, he was the guy I went and said, "Let's see if we can get Brett." He's such a great talent, but he's also just a great guy.

DARIUS RUCKER

on touring partner
Brett Eldredge

AMERICA'S MORNING SHOW
WITH **BLAIR GARNER**

KICKIN' IT
WITH **KIX BROOKS**

**MUSIC CITY
HOT SPOTS**



LOCATION:
1121 5th Ave. North
Nashville, TN
37208
(615) 750-2921
silotn.com

HOURS:
Tuesday–Saturday
Bar: 4 p.m.
Dinner: 5 p.m.
Sunday Brunch:
10:30 a.m.

SILo

Nashville's trendy Germantown neighborhood features more than its fair share of chic eateries, including Rolf and Daughters, Germantown Café and City House. But if you judge a restaurant's appeal by how many of its neighborhood locals frequent it, Silo is the place to be, as they say. The Southern-influenced bistro serves up a farm-fresh, chef-driven menu of appetizers, entrees and desserts, as well a creative cocktail menu that boasts new twists on old favorites. Start your culinary adventure with the house-made charcuterie or deviled eggs done three ways while you sip on a glass of wine, micro-brew draft or whiskey concoction (the Cannonball booms with flavor). For dinner, savor Silo's beef short rib with crème fraîche mashed potatoes, dive into a plate of seared sea scallops with parsnip puree or get comfortable with the chicken and dumplings with root vegetable medley. But save room for dessert, because the pot de crème with salted caramel sauce and caramel-bacon popcorn is worth every extra minute you have to spend at the gym. Silo's culinary capabilities are enough to keep any patron bursting at the seams with contentment, but their friendly staff will keep you coming back for seconds and thirds and . . . you get the picture.

— JIM CASEY



Silo co-owners Clay Greenberg (left) and Paul Cercone; (below) seared sea scallops are a house favorite.



Musical

A large crowd of people is gathered at a concert, filling a stadium or arena. The scene is illuminated by bright blue and white spotlights from the stage. A performer, wearing a cowboy hat and a dark shirt, stands on the stage, waving to the audience. The word "Musical" is written in large white letters across the top of the image.

AFTER A YEAR OFF,
A REVIVED **KENNY CHESNEY**
IS GEARING UP FOR
A SUMMER TOUR.

STORY BY
SARAH RODMAN



Revival

PHOTO COURTESY EB MEDIA

FOR KENNY CHESNEY FANS, IT IS TIME ONCE AGAIN TO KICK OFF THOSE SHOES.

After taking a year off from touring to recharge his batteries and rededicate himself to making music, in the form of his expansive 2014 album, *The Big Revival*, Kenny is re-taking his throne as the King of the Road. The Tennessee native will be hitting arenas, sheds and stadiums across the country on a tour that kicks off on his 47th birthday on March 26 in Nashville.

For the man who has collected a combined eight CMA and ACM Entertainer of the Year trophies over the course of his two-decade-plus career, it couldn't have come a moment too soon.

"I'm insanely thrilled to know that we're going to feel that energy pretty soon from the fans and all that love coming back towards us," says Ken-

ny on the phone from Los Angeles, where he's taking care of business during a quick break from rehearsals in Nashville. "We've been working really hard for about a month now. To see it all come together is the exciting part. But the thing that means the most is that you get to share it with the people who come to see you and love your music and the people who are up onstage. That's a part of my life I really love and I really missed last year, even though it was crucial for me as a human being and an artist that I take the time away."

That self-prescribed break worked wonders says Shaun Silva, Kenny's longtime video director. "I can see it in his eyes, he's very excited." That excitement has translated into a revitalized attitude toward the tour. As is typical

for the hands-on superstar, he is overseeing every aspect of the outing. He even shot some of the video that fans will see during his performance.

"It's really bringing a fresh look to the show," says Shaun of the intimate footage Kenny filmed in and around his home in the Virgin Islands. "It's been more personal, and I think the reason he was willing to do that was because he had the energy. He was able to engage 100 percent again."

Part of Kenny's new energy stems from his anticipation at performing songs from *The Big Revival* for the first time. The album has already spawned two No. 1 hits—his 25th and 26th, respectively—in the Grammy-nominated "American Kids" and the ode to living in the moment "Til It's Gone." The third single, "Wild Child," a sensuous paean to free-spirited women that finds him sharing the microphone again with "You



B&W PHOTO BY DANNY CLINCH/EB MEDIA; KENNY WITH HELMUT COURTESY EB MEDIA; KENNY & ERIC AND BUS PHOTOS COURTESY KENNY CHESNEY FACEBOOK; KENNY/JASON JARNEY/GETTY IMAGES

and Tequila” partner Grace Potter, is currently climbing the charts. The album also garnered some of the best reviews of his career, with critics noting his reinvigorated sound.

The success of *The Big Revival* also gives him license to pepper the show with some new material. “I was trying to think of any other moment in my career where I will go on tour but I haven’t played the songs from the record yet. That only happened with my very first album and my very first single,” says Kenny. “Now it really feels like my first album again in a little way because I haven’t played ‘Wild Child’ or ‘Til It’s Gone’ yet in a rocking arena or stadium setting with a bunch of passionate people out there that care about those songs.”

Joining Kenny on the road in various configurations will be a group of musicians and friends for whom he

has deep respect and newcomers he is excited to get to know, including Jake Owen, Chase Rice, Brantley Gilbert, Cole Swindell and Old Dominion.

“It’s always great to be out there with Jake,” says Kenny of his simpatico “Beachin’” pal. “He gets better every year, he gets more comfortable. I think he’s grown a lot as a performer.”

Kenny will also team up with Jason Aldean’s blockbuster Burn It Down Tour for nearly a dozen stadium dates in a co-headlining bonanza. And another former opener, Eric Church, will join the party for a stretch of stadium dates as well.

“It says a lot about those guys that they are doing shows with us, because they don’t have to,” says Kenny. “Jason and his camp and band have done a really good job of building their own experience and their own audience and that’s going to be a lot of fun to merge those two things together.”

As for Eric, Kenny says, “There’s not a singer/songwriter out there I respect as much as [him] and it’s a lot of fun to make music and tour with him. He just cares, you know? And that’s everything that I love.”

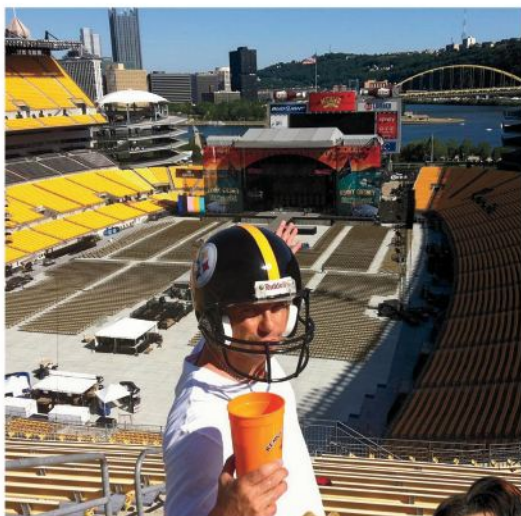
For all of his openers, Kenny says he and his team work hard to treat them with a respect that he sometimes wasn’t afforded when he was logging miles as a warm-up act.

“I do everything different from the way that I was treated,” he says with a laugh, remembering a few rough summers he “could have lived without.”

“I always said if we ever get to the point where we’re headlining shows, we’re not going to be negative. We’re going to have a lot of positive energy and give people respect and we’ll all have a great time.”

That’s a promise that Jake can attest Kenny has kept.

Thanks to his passel of hits like



(Clockwise from above) All aboard the “American Kids” party bus; Eric Church will join Kenny for five dates on The Big Revival Tour in 2015; backstage cocktails with Jason Aldean (center) and Jake Owen at the 2012 ACM Awards; gearing up for his show at Pittsburgh’s Heinz Field.



Crew Review

As much as Kenny is looking forward to see the smiling faces of the No Shoes Nation, he's also happy to be reunited with his band and crew.

"We're like a family out there, so to have backed away from that, there was definitely a void last summer in my life in a lot of ways," says Kenny of the people without whom there would be no show. "It's exciting to see those faces and hear those voices and to hear the sounds of another tour starting up."

Ask him about any of the more than 140 men and women that ensure his shows are sonically strong, visually stunning, safe and fun—many of whom have worked with him for more than a decade and some of whom he's known since grade school—and he could talk all day because he knows: no crew, no band, big problem.

"The thing I love about those guys is that this is their dream, too," says Kenny of crucial members of his onstage team, like guitar techs Zeke Clark and James "Catfish" Wingate and sound tech Jeff Kersey. "They've been around, they've worked with a lot of really wonderful acts over the years, and they're very seasoned," he says, adding with a laugh, "and they've got a really good BS detector."

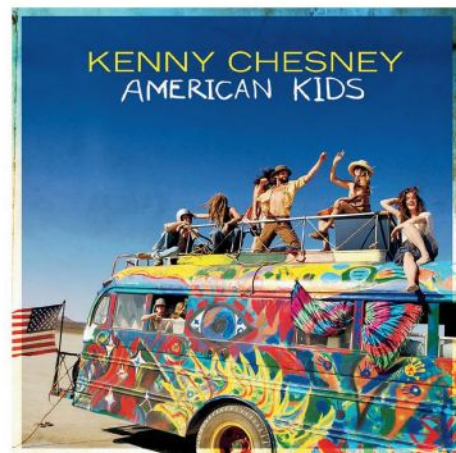
He also speaks highly of longtime production manager Ed Wannebo, the conductor of the complex load-in/load-out choreography, who previously logged miles with acts like Van Halen and Hall & Oates.

"Ed has been a blessing to me not only because of his knowledge and wisdom and how to get a show in and out of a stadium or an arena, but Ed's personality and Ed's look on our world out there is perfect for what we do and my personality," says Kenny.

In addition to praise, Kenny goes a step further than most artists by frequently giving his team a curtain call during the encore.

Jake Owen, who has previously opened for Kenny and will join him again this summer, has seen Kenny's generosity up close.

"He's done this thing over the years where he does a drawing and picks a guy out of his crew and gives him the merch money on a particular night," says Jake. "And what's so great about his crew is instead of one guy taking it, they split it up between all of them because they all work for it. I don't care if it's music or anything else, that's how you keep the loyalty and camaraderie amongst people in any business. There's been many times I've been able to watch him from a little bit of distance and learn how to conduct my own business in order to be successful."



Between putting out his *Billboard* No. 1 single "American Kids" and tending to the growth of his Blue Chair Bay line of rum, 2014 was a fun year for Kenny.



KENNY CHESNEY CONTINUED

"Barefoot Blue Jean Night," "Anywhere With You" and "Days of Gold," Jake has already enjoyed the pleasures of touring as a headliner, but he was happy to sign up for another run with Kenny.

"They say once you go out and headline your own tour you never really want to open for anyone again," says Jake, who notes that Kenny took him under his wing during his first tour in 2006, "but I don't care, I could open for Kenny Chesney for the rest of my life, because I just appreciate not only who he is as a person and what kind of music he makes, but how he makes his fans feel. Because I'm a fan of Kenny and I always was before I ever got to know him. Even after all these years, not only does he have great music but he's a great entertainer, and that's why year after year peo-



It takes a village to raise a Kenny.

KENNY & CREW AND PERF PHOTOS COURTESY EB MEDIA; BOTTLES BY ELISSA C. NEWLAND

**“I’m insanely
thrilled to
know that we’re
going to feel
that energy
pretty soon
from the
fans and all
that love
coming back
towards us.”**



ple don't only show up for a concert, they show up for an experience.”

In addition to having his openers and special guests occasionally join him for various songs in his set, Kenny hopes that many will participate in an encore jam. Previously, all hands on deck have joined in for spirited runs through covers of Jackson Browne's "Running on Empty" and the Eagles' "Take It Easy.”

“That’s something I always look forward to, because it doesn’t happen every single night and because you never know where bringing somebody onstage is going to take you in the show,” says Kenny of the sometimes joyously sloppy hootenannies. “Sometimes it’s just one song, sometimes it ends up being 10, so that makes for a great night and a great shared experience for the audience, the band and everybody involved. It’s

off the cuff and I love it.”

One new element for this year’s tour will be the Blue Chair Bay Rum Tailgate Experience, named for Kenny’s rum line, launched in 2013 and one of the sponsors of The Big Revival Tour. Fans will have a chance to explore the psychedelically tricked-out bus from the album cover and “American Kids” video and take a tour of Kenny’s career. “You’re going to see how this whole thing [unfolded],” says Kenny. “It mixes a lot of my life, a lot of music, a lot of road stuff, stuff from the islands, all funneled and bottled into Blue Chair Bay. The rum was very authentic to me and it’s really important to me that the fan experience is the same thing. It’s not too flashy but it’s fun.”

That could be an apt description of Kenny himself. He no longer feels pressured to compete with his previ-

ous achievements, which are many, including winning *Billboard*’s Top Package tour award eight times and appearing as the sole country artist on the magazine’s list of Top 10 touring acts of the last 25 years.

“I think that there was a point in my life that I did have that mentality,” says Kenny. “Now I’m in a spot where I just want the experience to be great. I think if you put this unneeded weight on it of ‘Oh my God, this has to beat the last thing or it’s not going to be same!’ [it] could be a recipe for disaster for me, mentally anyway.”

In accordance with this philosophy, Kenny says he has a simple plan for The Big Revival Tour: “We’re just going to go plug in our guitars, sing songs from the heart and have a great time.”

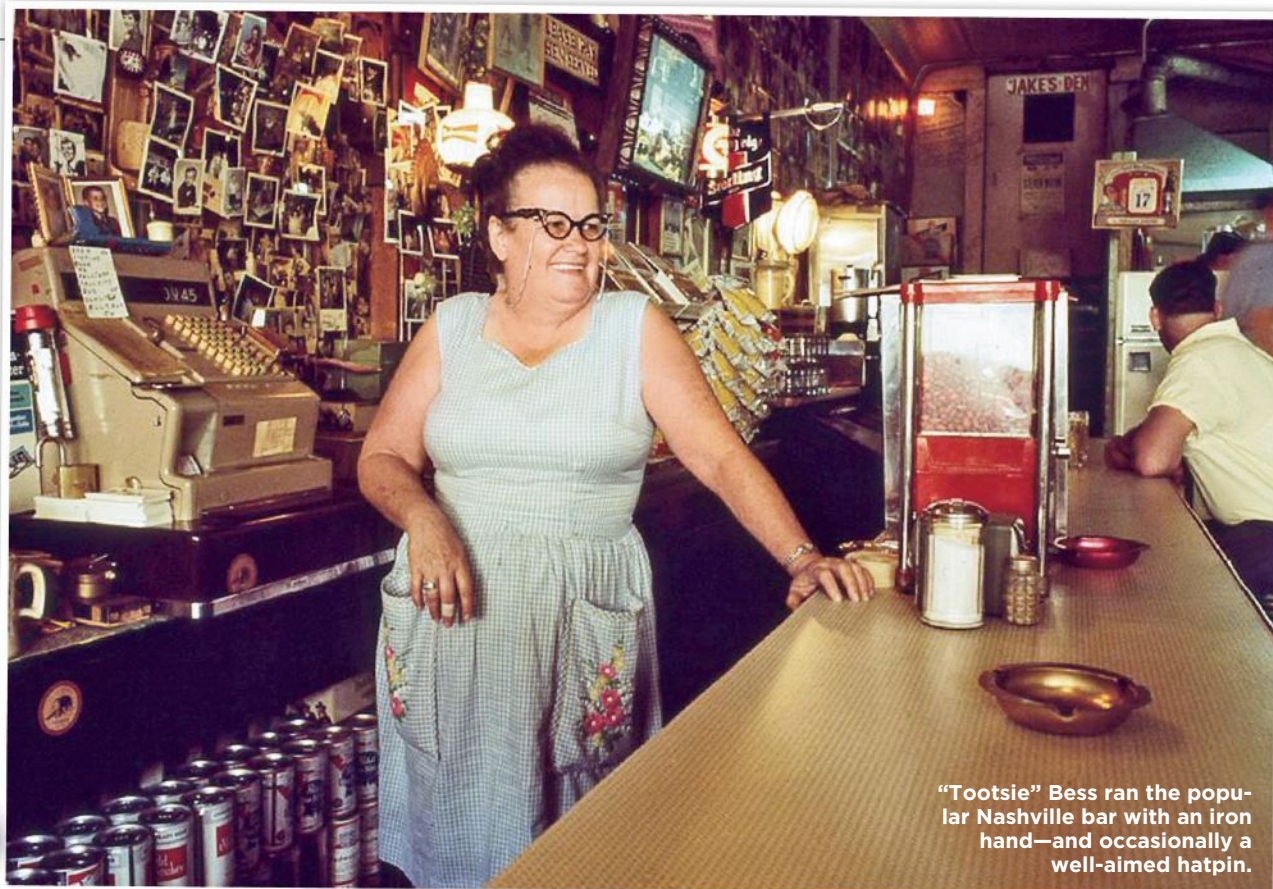
And you can bet the fans will have a great time, too. **CW**



Tootsie's Rolling Keeps

NASHVILLE'S LEGENDARY
WATERING HOLE TOOTSIE'S
ORCHID LOUNGE CELEBRATES
A MILESTONE BIRTHDAY.

STORY BY
BOB PAXMAN



"Tootsie" Bess ran the popular Nashville bar with an iron hand—and occasionally a well-aimed hatpin.

At the center of downtown Nashville, in an area locals like to call Lower Broadway, an institution stands long and proud. It's the spot where Grand Ole Opry stars would slip off to between shows and where future country classics were written. Today, country buffs from all generations (and all nations) still flock there to take in the music, the photographs that dot the walls and the smoky, suds-soaked ambience.

The iconic bar is Tootsie's Orchid Lounge, also billed as Tootsie's World Famous Orchid Lounge and known simply as Tootsie's to any well-tempered Nashvillian. And it's lasted far longer than the average country music career.

On March 29, Tootsie's will celebrate birthday 55. And while that's old enough to qualify for AARP benefits, the lounge is showing few real signs of age. At 55, Tootsie's remains a vibrant outpost for veteran entertainers as well as the up-and-comers



who need a showcase for their talents.

Tootsie's actually had an interesting history before becoming an iconic attraction. During the 1950s, it was known as Mom's. The bar's location, across the alley exactly 37 steps from the Grand Ole Opry when it called the Ryman Auditorium home, proved ideal for the Opry stars who would dash in between sets for a quick beer or two.

A lady named Hattie Louise Bess, who went by "Tootsie," bought the bar in 1958 and renamed it Tootsie's

a couple of years later. The "Orchid Lounge" part apparently came to her after a painter decided to bathe the lounge in purple, much to her surprise. The hangout opened as Tootsie's Orchid Lounge (the apostrophe has always been debated, as the name appears as "Tootsies" on the outside) on March 29, 1960.

The stories surrounding the colorful but kind-hearted Tootsie abound to this day. She may have been a matronly sort, but she was certainly no shrinking violet when it came to running the show. Tootsie knew how to deal with a rough crowd and rowdy patrons. "Tootsie, if you caused too much commotion, she'd throw your ass out," songwriter Bobby Bare once recalled. As the story goes, any singer or songwriter who got out of line would feel the unmistakable pinch of Tootsie's hatpin in a most sensitive spot.

On the other hand, Tootsie could be as generous as she was cantankerous. She was known to slip five- or

TOOTSIE'S CONTINUED



Keith Urban (left) and Aerosmith's Steven Tyler surprise a Tootsie's crowd on Keith's birthday. (Left) Musician Brother Oswald (left) and the legendary Bill Monroe get chummy.



Kris Kristofferson was a Tootsie's regular. (Right) A young Alan Jackson performs a show during the early 1990s.



10-dollar bills into the pockets of down-on-their-luck songwriters. "She loved songwriters more than she loved the stars," Bobby Bare has often noted. Tootsie also kept a cigar box behind the counter that contained IOUs from writers and artists to whom she'd given a free meal or drink. Reportedly, at the end of the year, the Grand Ole Opry stars would take all the IOUs, pass the hat around and pay Tootsie the money owed so that she wouldn't be in personal debt.

Tootsie's became the favorite get-away for Music Row songwriters, who commiserated over tunes and ran ideas by one another. It's the general belief that more country standards were written at Tootsie's than at

any other building outside of a song publishing company. Tootsie's served as songwriter central for a bunch of maverick tunesmiths like Willie Nelson, Harlan Howard, Roger Miller, Kris Kristofferson and a host of others. "It was a place where people who were on fire with ideas of songs and stuff would run into each other and bounce them off each other," Kris once recalled to *Country Weekly*.

Willie wrote "Crazy," the future Patsy Cline hit, there, and Tootsie's also saw the beginnings of "I Fall to Pieces," written by Hank Cochran and Harlan Howard. You could not only write them at Tootsie's but you could also pitch them. The Orchid Lounge often served as a de facto office for

writers eager to plug their tunes.

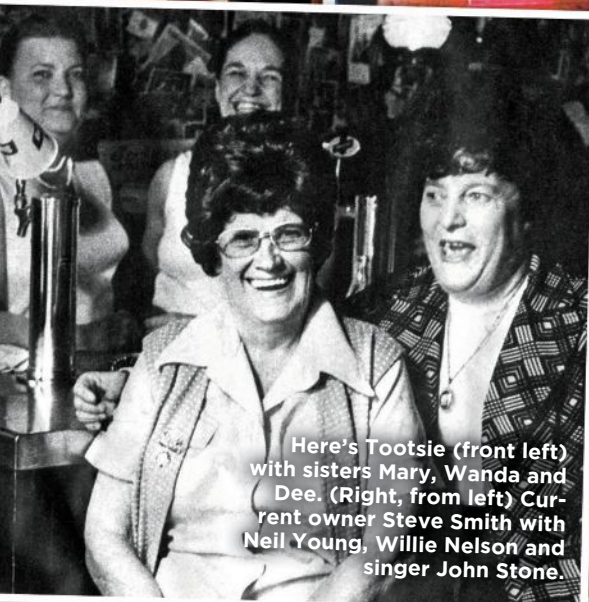
Willie first met songwriter Hank Cochran, who pitched songs for Pamper Music, at Tootsie's. Willie played a few of his songs for Hank, who was so impressed that he went to his boss the following day, urging him to sign young Willie to a publishing deal. It proved the beginning of a fruitful friendship.

Many accounts reveal that Willie pitched his song "Hello Walls" to Faron Young inside the confines of Tootsie's. The song became a nine-week No. 1 for Faron in 1961.

Hattie "Tootsie" Bess died in 1978. She was so beloved in the Nashville music community that her funeral was attended by a list of stars from Roy Acuff to Faron Young and Tom T. Hall.



Willie Nelson (second from left) and Kris Kristofferson (right) break into a song. (Left) Marty Stuart takes a turn behind the bar.



Here's Tootsie (front left) with sisters Mary, Wanda and Dee. (Right, from left) Current owner Steve Smith with Neil Young, Willie Nelson and singer John Stone.



Connie Smith sang some of Tootsie's favorite hymns at the funeral.

During the 1980s, when urban blight and tough economic times combined to make downtown Nashville undesirable, rumors persisted that Tootsie's might close. The lounge stayed open, however, and was eventually bought by Steve Smith in the 1990s.

These days, Tootsie's thrives with packed houses nearly every night. Those who visit Nashville from other cities might skip local attractions like the Parthenon or Opryland Hotel, but they always make it a point to drop by Tootsie's. You can't truly say you've seen Nashville without the Tootsie's experience. "Even if you came to Nashville just to go to


Tootsie's," Lorrie Morgan once told *Country Weekly*, "it'd be worth it because of all the history it represents."

Not only was Tootsie's the second home to Willie, Roger, Kris and the boys, it also provided a welcome first gig for a young Canadian singer named Terri Clark in the mid-1990s. Within a few days of moving to Nashville from her native Canada, Terri landed a three-week slot playing for tips at the Orchid Lounge. Terri eventually signed a songwriting deal that led to her recording contract with Mercury Nashville.

Surprise shows at Tootsie's happen often, but generally unannounced (they wouldn't be surprises otherwise). In 2008, Kenny Chesney

played to a packed crowd at a show he later admitted didn't come together until that afternoon. Kenny returned for another impromptu gig with rock titan Steve Miller in 2010 after the two taped a *CMT Crossroads* episode at the Ryman Auditorium. And just this past year, Keith Urban played on the third floor of Tootsie's to celebrate his 47th birthday, joined by Steven Tyler of Aerosmith, before a stunned crowd of 300 lucky folks.

Few establishments can boast to being around, and being relevant, for more than a half century. So, next time you're in Tootsie's (or even your first time), raise your glass to the house that helped Nashville become Music City. **CW**

A photograph of Kix Brooks, a man with a mustache and goatee, wearing a dark cowboy hat and a dark jacket over a light blue shirt. He is standing at a podium, holding a silver trophy in his right hand, and looking off to the side. A microphone is positioned in front of him. The background is dark.

On a night when
KIX BROOKS was
honored with the
CMA Foundation
Humanitarian
Award, he humbly
took the time to
celebrate the
generosity of others.

KINDLY KIX

PHOTOS COURTESY CMA

KIX BROOKS WAS HONORED

on March 2 with the CMA Foundation Humanitarian Award at a special dinner held at Nashville's City Winery. The singer, who supports various charities and organizations, including Operation Finally Home, Monroe Harding Children's Home, Monroe Carrell Jr. Children's Hospital and Metro Nashville Public Schools, says his philanthropic efforts are far more significant than his illustrious music career.

"Ronnie [Dunn] and I really hit the lottery," Kix tells *Country Weekly*. "We were blessed with that dream that you dream when you're learning how to tune your guitar, and we were rewarded beyond probably our wildest dreams. And, at that point, if you don't have something in your heart that wants to give back, because you're able to, then something's wrong with you."

Still, Kix admits he is uncomfortable with the attention the award has brought him. "I've thought about this night a lot, and why is it embarrassing to me," he acknowledges. "It should mean so much to me. But the answer that I've come up with, for myself, is because hopefully an event like this celebrates good deeds, whether they're good deeds that I did or that hopefully I can point out that other people have done.

The things that I love are the things that other people are doing. In most cases, I'm just a cheerleader. There are people in the trenches who are doing the work, just like in a hospital.

I'm not a doctor or a nurse. I can brag on the Children's Hospi-

tal, and support it in some way, but that doesn't make me a hero."

Kix also points out that he is far from alone in being generous with both his time and his resources, which makes the award that much more meaningful. "That's the thing about the music industry, and the people that I like to call friends, and the people that I admire in this town. You see it over and over again, and you want to step up and do your part, because people all around you are doing their part," he says. "So, to celebrate the things that mean a lot to me—this is really important to me, because it is a chance to look around the room and for us all to say, 'We're here, we're doing good. We're helping out our community.'"

When accepting his award, Kix used his time onstage to point to others who are also making a difference in their community and beyond.

"I looked around this room, and you are all my friends," he noted. "I could pull out each person in this room and tell you something they have done that is so significant

and so meaningful, to some organization, something in their community, something they've given to you, something they've put their heart into. But if we can celebrate, if the CMA has come up with a way for us to get together and find joy in giving to our community, I'm thinking it is a good thing to find the heart in ourselves, and to give to others, then this is a good thing we're doing tonight. Then all of a sudden, this feels right to me, not because this is about me, but because this is about us."

Kix, who will join his former Brooks & Dunn partner, Ronnie Dunn, and Reba McEntire for their Reba, Brooks & Dunn: Together in Vegas residency show in June, says he is still working on his own new music as well.

"I've actually been writing a lot of songs lately," he reveals. "Who knows if anybody cares, but that's what we do. If you're not writing songs and making music, then like Dale Earnhardt used to tell me, don't forget the No. 3 car, no matter what you're doing. I love all the other stuff going on, but that's my heart and soul. I'll always be doing it. Hopefully it matters."

— GAYLE THOMPSON



Kix's longtime friend Reba McEntire presented him with the CMA Foundation Humanitarian Award.

A photograph of Rodney Atkins sitting on a wooden chair, playing an acoustic guitar. He is wearing a denim shirt, olive green cargo pants, a black and white baseball cap with a "FALCON" logo, and a beaded bracelet. He is smiling at the camera. The background is a rustic, stone-walled interior.

TIME WELL SPENT

Rodney Atkins shines a light on his career so far with a collection of his biggest hits.

IN JUST FOUR STUDIO albums' time, Rodney Atkins has managed to notch a respectable assortment of No. 1s and other radio hits. That's a pretty impressive feat for anyone. "And that first album I think only sold eight copies," jokes Rodney of his debut project, *Honesty*, which grazed radio with only its title track.

Rodney's sophomore album, *If You're Going Through Hell*, was another story entirely. The album opened the floodgates for his career, not only scoring Rodney his very first chart-topping hit with the title track but also yielding three more No. 1 singles after that: "Watching You," "These Are My People" and "Cleaning This Gun (Come On in Boy)." That album thrived for three years until Rodney returned with *It's*

America in 2009, followed by *Take a Back Road* in 2011, collectively bringing his *Billboard* No. 1 hits total to six with each album's title track.

"Something I've been very proud of in my career is for my albums to last as long as they have," notes Rodney. "For albums to last that long, there has to be some great songs on there, so I feel like we've done a good job when it comes to picking material."

In February, Rodney assembled all six of his No. 1s for *Greatest Hits*, his very first hits collection, which also contains his current single, "Eat Sleep Love You Repeat." Additionally, the album includes his Top 5 hit "Farmer's Daughter" and fan favorites "He's Mine," "Invisibly Shaken" and "About the South."

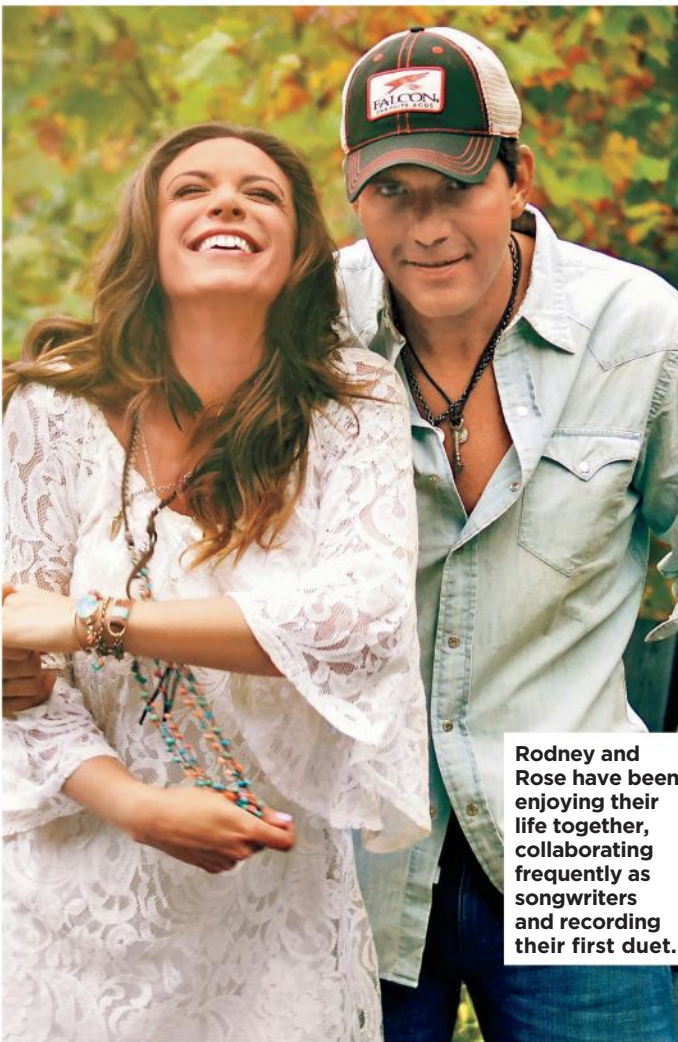
"I swear, just having that package

together with these songs, it's the coolest thing in the world," says Rodney, smiling. "Since it's been out, people have been coming up and saying, 'Hey, that song marked this time in my life and that song marked this time.' They have stories that are very personal with these songs, just like I do.

"I can go back and think about me and [my son] Elijah riding to Little League practice and playing 'Take a Back Road,'" Rodney continues with a grin. "I remember him going, 'Yeah, that's cool. Is that Lynyrd Skynyrd?' Stories like that really mark a time in my life, and I'm so grateful for those memories."

While piecing together the *Greatest Hits* collection, Rodney has also been in the studio working on a new project he is hoping to release before

RODNEY BY JOSEPH L. LANE/EB MEDIA; RODNEY & ROSE BY FASHION & FARM COUNTRY/RODNEY & ROSE; RODNEY PERFORMING BY ZUMA PRESS/CORBIS



Rodney and Rose have been enjoying their life together, collaborating frequently as songwriters and recording their first duet.



summer rolls around. He has been taking his time writing and selecting songs that are a bit out of the norm for him. "There are some different things on there," he reveals. "I've been spending a lot of energy focused on finding different songs that are twisted a little sideways that will stand out. They're not your typical songs."

The album will also feature his version of Jason Isbell's "Cover Me Up," which Rodney recorded as a duet with his wife, singer/songwriter Rose Falcon. The song marks the first time the two have sung together in the studio. "It turned out killer," says Rodney. "It was pretty special getting her to sing on some stuff with me."

Sharing those intimate moments in the studio with Rose is a good example of how connected Rodney feels

to his new music. He confesses that it hasn't always been that way with some of his previous work. "That was one of my goals with the new music—to find that connection again," says Rodney. "And that's a struggle for me sometimes. *If You're Going Through Hell* was a completely personal album because I had my whole life to make it. Then when we did *It's America*, there were some pieces that I felt connected to, but I was working like crazy. You get lost in that moment, not knowing if you're coming or going. You're just trying to find family time and time for yourself. You're afraid if you say no to something, your career is going to suffer. Then with *Take a Back Road*, I think I went back to being more connected with it again. Now, with this new

album, I feel very close to it, and I think that will definitely show."

Additionally, Rodney has plans of working on a Christmas album later in 2015 to release during the holiday season. "I'm pretty excited about it," he says. "I've never done one before, so I'm looking forward to starting on that next."

From one album every three years to a potential three albums in one year, Rodney realizes that he's got a full plate at the moment. He doesn't seem to mind one bit. "I'm not in a hurry," he says, slowly smiling. "I think I've gained a lot of patience over the past few years. It's an exciting time for me right now, so I'm just kind of chillin' it and enjoying being present."

— ALANNA CONAWAY

[ON TOUR]

FRANKIE BALLARD



March 27
Macon, Ga.
The Crazy
Bull

March 28
New Port Richey, Fla.
Sims Park
Amphitheater

April 12
Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
Tortuga
Music
Festival

April 16
Baton Rouge, La.
Varsity Theatre

April 17
San Antonio
Fiesta Oyster Bake

April 22
San Jose, Calif.
Club Rodeo

April 23
Santa Cruz, Calif.
The Catalyst

April 24
Clovis, Calif.
Clovis Rodeo

April 25
Santa Margarita, Calif.
Pozo Saloon

April 26
Indio, Calif.
Stagecoach Music Festival

April 28
Manchester, N.H.
Thomas F. Sullivan Arena

Daughter, I Love You Today, Tomorrow, Always

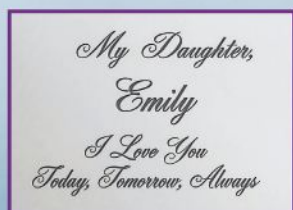
Personalized Birthstone Mirror Box

- ♥ Fully mirrored music box, hand-crafted of beveled glass
- ♥ Elegantly etched sentiment on the lid personalized for FREE with your daughter's name
- ♥ Four square-cut faux crystals customized with your daughter's birthstone are hand-set on the lid
- ♥ 96 clear faux gems dazzle on mirror box lid



Plays "You Are So Beautiful"

FREE
Personalization!



Personalize the touching sentiment on the lid with your daughter's name!



Customized with *your choice* of 12 sparkling faux crystal birthstones, just for your daughter.



Shown at actual size of about 4" square

"February"

A Personalized Treasure for a Daughter

Hand-crafted of mirrored beveled glass, this exquisite music box features the meaningful etched sentiment, "My Daughter, I Love You Today, Tomorrow, Always." It can be personalized with the name of your choice—FREE of charge. You can even customize the four genuine, square-cut faux crystals to match your daughter's birthstone. The "Daughter, I Love You" Personalized Birthstone Mirror Box plays the melody of "You Are So Beautiful" and makes a perfect gift.

Great value; limited time only!

Order now at only \$59.99*, payable in three installments of \$19.99. Our 365-day money-back guarantee assures your 100% satisfaction. Send no money now. Just return the coupon today, indicating the name to be personalized on the box.

www.bradfordexchange.com/jewelbox

©2014 BGE Printed in U.S.A. 01-17943-001-BDUP

PLEASE ORDER PROMPTLY

SEND NO MONEY NOW

THE
BRADFORD EXCHANGE
—COLLECTIBLES—

P.O. Box 806, Morton Grove, IL 60053-0806

YES. Please accept my order for the "Daughter, I Love You" Personalized Birthstone Mirror Box(es). I need send no money now. I will be billed with shipment. More than one daughter? Print the name for each box reserved (up to 10 letters each).

Emily

Customize the
sentiment with
her name

Name (Print in block letters. Limit of 10 letters per name.)

Month

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Mrs. Mr. Ms.

Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address

City

State

Zip

Email (optional)

01-17943-001-E08191

*Plus \$9.99 shipping and service per box. Please allow 4-8 weeks for shipment. Limited-edition presentation restricted to 95 firing days. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.

BEHIND
THE SCENES

RAY SCOTT

RAY SCOTT GETS WAY INTO CHARACTER FOR HIS LATEST MUSIC VIDEO.

HE MAY POSSESS A DARK AND piercing gaze, but handsome Ray Scott has proven in recent releases that his sense of humor is abundant and razor sharp.

But today, as he leans back in a comfy chair at his record label office, he's not laughing. And that piercing gaze? Well, his eyes are closed. But the sense of humor and warmth is still there. Apparently, he was "over-served" during the video shoot for his new single, "Ain't Always Thirsty."

He jokingly squints a bit as he explains. "Part of it was because it was cold and I was trying to warm the cockles of my heart. And I was kind of on an empty stomach, so it snuck up on me," he says, sheepishly. "I didn't get ripped or anything, but it doesn't take much anymore to hurt me." He sits up and the smile that women love appears as he continues. "It's method acting, is what it is, where you have to actually drink so you can act drunk," he says. "The song is 'Ain't Always Thirsty' and it's just all about being at the bottom, sort of the downward spiral of depression and all of the results of having been in a divorce situation. So, we had a video shoot at a kind of seedy motel and I just had to kind of play the part. I found earlier on that my acting wasn't that good, so I really had to enhance the feeling. Nothing like acting drunk when you really are. I need a couple of cucumbers for my eyes."

Cucumbers may be what he needs to heal his tired, puffy eyes, but as he talks about writing "Ain't Always Thirsty," you get the sense that the simple-but-thoughtful song was a much-needed emotional salve. "I wrote it as a result of getting a divorce and the foolishness I was guilty

ON THE ROCKS

PHOTOS BY CARISSA RICCARDI



Ray on the set of the video shoot for "Ain't Always Thirsty" with actresses Alex Van Zeelandt (left) and Nina Secula



of for causing it in the first place—kind of getting lost and then having to realize some things about yourself and some places you went wrong and the overall effect,” Ray quietly discloses. “It’s a huge weight to get dropped on yourself when you realize you’re the reason you’re in such a bad place. But that’s kind of where it came from and I think that that type of emotional baggage sometimes makes for the absolute best songs.”

It’s also what drew the traditionalist to country in the first place. “It was so much about real life and it wasn’t all trucks and tailgates and short, cutoff jeans and drinking beer, although I

do enjoy drinking beer,” he says. “But it was about real stuff and stuff that you could relate to. You could listen to something and think, ‘Oh, good, I’m not alone in this world. Somebody else feels this way.’ So that’s one thing with this song, I think a lot of people can relate to it, whether they were on the giving or receiving end of it. Despair is a great muse.”

In spite of the difficult circumstances surrounding the song, Ray is immensely proud of the tune and the video. “It’s heavy, but I enjoy performing the song,” he says, smiling. “I’m at a place now, emotionally, where it doesn’t rip my heart out

every time I do it. It puts me back in that place and reminds me where I was then and makes me thankful for where I am now. It’s one of those things where I feel like we really struck a nerve with that song, I really got something right. And you don’t get those ideas all the time and you’re lucky when you do. The video is just as sad as the song. It ain’t painting any pretty pictures, but it’s painting a picture of something real that I think is missing out there and so I feel like it’s my job and responsibility to remind people that that side of things exists.”

— TAMMY RAGUSA

MOE MUSIC

Moe Bandy keeps on playing the hits for his fans, but there's new music to look forward to as well.

STORY BY BOB PAXMAN

Moe Bandy figures that, as career choices go, he made the right one. No doubt, singing and entertaining have provided Moe with an amply rewarding lifestyle over the past 40 years. But there was a time when the life of a rodeo cowboy seemed the way to unfettered riches and fame. As he and wife Tami sit comfortably inside the *Country Weekly/NASH* offices, Moe takes a few moments to explain why country music won out over brave bulls and bucking bronses.

"My brother and I were raised on rodeo and bull riding," says Moe, who grew up in San Antonio. "But I always say that I had to quit because of my back—I have a yellow streak down it. I broke so many bones and needed shoulder surgery one time. I got hurt pretty good a couple of other times, so I went into music. I couldn't handle all that."

Moe describes the injuries and body blows with the same laconic, easygoing manner in which he might order lunch. But that even-keeled personality has likely helped Moe handle the vagaries of a country music career that began back in 1974 with his Top 20 single "I Just Started Hatin' Cheatin' Songs Today." He turned 71 in February, but keeps an active touring schedule worthy of a young buck. And he's not through making new music.

"We have a live album that I cut in Austin that will be out soon on iTunes," Moe says. "And I am in the process



of cutting a new album. It's all original stuff, and we're real excited about it. That one should be out by this summer, maybe July or August."

RECORDING MACHINE

All of which should come as welcome news for fans who have been in Moe's corner since the early days. The burly, bearded singer came along at a time when country music resided in a state of flux, with one faction leaning toward the pop country, or Countrypolitan, style and others experimenting with sounds that would form the genesis of the Outlaw movement. But Moe's music stayed true to honky-tonk roots and tradition, without compromising to trends.

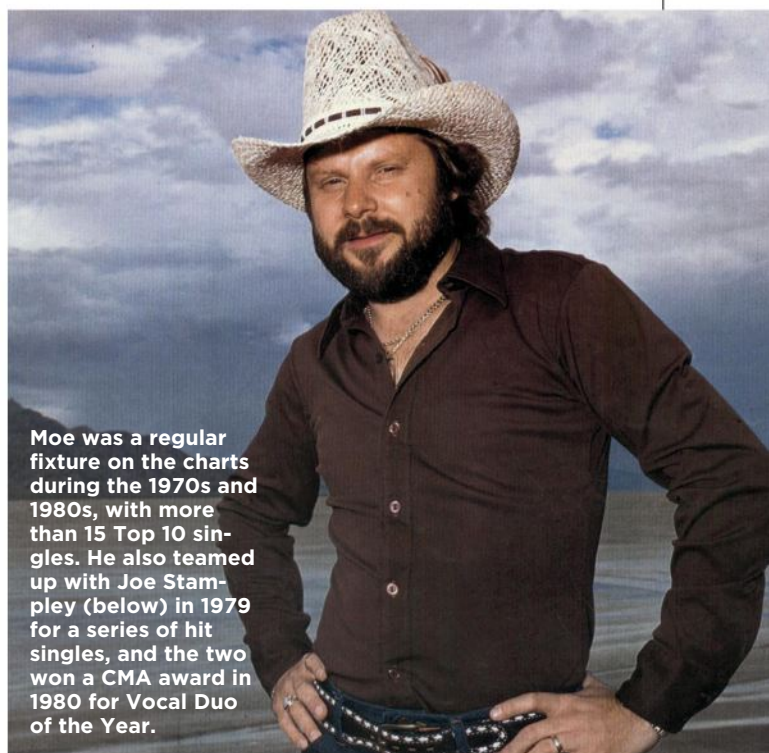
"I came in when people were putting strings on the music," Moe explains. "Eddy Arnold and Ray Price did a lot of that, and I loved it. They had some great songs." Moe breaks into a smile and adds, "But I can't do anything that's not country. I guess it's just my voice, but everything comes out country, pretty much."

Following his 1974 debut, Moe was as prolific a singles artist as anyone around. During the latter years of the 1970s, Moe was releasing at least three singles a year on his own. He was also recording with Joe Stampley, and the two put out additional singles, giving both some extra chart positions.

"We were a recording machine there for a while," Moe says with a laugh. "Ray Baker, my producer, liked to go in the studio and get a lot of songs down, and I'm glad he did it that way. There was about a 10-year period there where I would have two songs on the chart simultaneously, one going up and the other going down. They were almost meeting themselves."

Those hits included "Hank Williams, You Wrote My Life," "Bandy the Rodeo Clown," inspired by his former career aspiration, "Two Lonely People" and "One of a Kind." Moe practically made a cottage industry from so-called cheating songs, which he surely came to embrace despite the protestations of his debut single. He scored a No. 2 hit in 1979 with "It's a Cheating Situation," featuring Janie Fricke on backing vocals, and his only solo No. 1 with "I Cheated Me Right Out of You" later that same year. "She's Not Really Cheatin' (She's Just Gettin' Even)" landed at the No. 4 spot in 1982.

One of his all-time favorites remains "Hank Williams, You Wrote My Life," written by Paul Craft, who was inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame shortly before his death in 2014. "He wrote that song and pitched it to us as bluegrass," Moe remembers. "Of course, Paul wrote a lot of bluegrass songs, so it wasn't too unusual. We took it and put the Hank Williams traditional flavor on it and that became a big hit [No. 2 in 1975]. Paul was a wonderful writer," Moe adds solemnly. "I was glad that he was able to be there for



Moe was a regular fixture on the charts during the 1970s and 1980s, with more than 15 Top 10 singles. He also teamed up with Joe Stampley (below) in 1979 for a series of hit singles, and the two won a CMA award in 1980 for Vocal Duo of the Year.



his induction before he passed."

"Americana," a Top 10 in 1988, has gained momentum over the years, and it's now one of his most-requested numbers. The tune, a salute to small-town America and a celebration of its values, brought him considerable attention at the time from none other than President George H.W. Bush.

"President Bush really liked the feel of the song and what it had to say," Moe recalls with a smile. "I played it at the White House. It wasn't one of my real big chart records but it's just a monster on the road,"



Moe performed several shows at the White House for President George H.W. Bush; (left) posing with his numerous awards.



MOE BANDY CONTINUED

Moe says. “It’s played a lot on holidays and things like that. It is one of those songs I have to do at my concerts. I would say that and ‘It’s a Cheating Situation’ are the ones fans ask for the most.”

Janie Fricke is often on hand to help out with the latter. “I do shows with Janie sometimes,” Moe says. “We have one coming up in Texas. We always do that song together and she is still singing great.”

MOE AND JOE

In 1979, Moe’s career was amped up even further as he teamed up with Joe Stampley, a solo artist with plenty of hits under his own belt. The two established artists formed their

team almost by accident, following a conversation at the Hard Rock Cafe in London, where they were booked on the same shows.

Joe mentioned something to the effect that “Moe and Joe” evoked a lyrical sound similar to “Waylon and Willie.” During the same conversation, Joe asked Moe if anybody had ever told him that the two looked alike. “I joked with him and said, ‘Man, I hope not.’ I mean, we both had beards, but that was about the only thing similar,” Moe recalls with a smile. “Well, anyway, Joe’s piano player Ansley Fleetwood was sitting there and said something like, ‘What if we could find a song for you two?’ And he came back a couple days later and said that he had one for us.”

The song was “Just Good Ol’ Boys,” whose message is exactly as it implies, which still needed a chorus. Moe and Joe liked it enough to add the chorus and record it. “I had a session and brought Joe in with me,” Moe points out. “The record label, Columbia, heard it and knew that they could do a big thing on it. And it just took off.”

Did it ever! “Just Good Ol’ Boys” reached No. 1 in 1979, and their follow-up, “Holding the Bag,” peaked at No. 7. On the strength of those back-to-back megahits, Moe and Joe, officially billed as Moe Bandy & Joe Stampley, won the 1980 Country Music Association award for Vocal Duo of the Year.

“It was great,” Moe assesses in

A performance for
Country's Family
Reunion's *Honky Tonk*
series on RFD-TV



his forthright manner. “We toured all across the U.S. We brought all the good old boys out—and the good old girls, too. Then, Joe and I had a bar in Houston and then another one in Shreveport [Louisiana], but that one didn’t last too long. We had some great times.”

Oddly enough, the pairing ended up adversely affecting their solo careers. They basically split as an act in 1985, a year after their last Top 10 hit, “Where’s the Dress,” a satirical commentary aimed at the colorful pop star Boy George of Culture Club.

Now, however, Moe and Joe get the act back together on occasion, including a concert in Branson, Mo., later in the year. “We do about three or four shows a year,” Moe

says. “In fact, the only show I’ll do in Branson this year is the one with Joe.” That seems an oh-by-the-way comment, except for the fact that Moe actually lives in Branson and once had a popular theater in the performing town. “I broke the Branson habit,” he says, laughing somewhat wryly. “I went there in 1990 when the city had the big boom. It was an unbelievable time. I still have fun playing there.”

Besides touring on land, Moe also stays busy at sea. He hosts his own cruise, featuring himself and his band, and is a regular on the yearly Larry’s Country Diner/Country’s Family Reunion cruise, which recently set sail to the Caribbean. “Those are so much fun,” Moe says genu-

inely. “You have thousands of fans running around and you get to spend time with them, and that is something I absolutely love. I guess that’s because I’m glad they’re still with me—and I’m still with them.”

And he plans to keep it that way. “I have been blessed in a lot of ways,” Moe says. “My health is good and I have had so many wonderful highlights, like getting the CMA award and playing at the White House, which is one of the greatest things to ever happen to me.”

As such, he’s not hanging up his performing hat anytime in the near future. “I do have a busy touring schedule, but I’m still enjoying it,” Moe says, smiling. “I hope I can keep my hat on for a long time.” **CW**



SINGLES

GARY ALLAN

“Hangover Tonight”

MCA RECORDS

GRADE: A

Have you ever been overserved? You know, one too many samplings of moonshine, tailgates, Daisy Dukes or dirt roads? Gary Allan has just arrived with the cure—the tonic to ease your pain from the saturation of the same ol’—and it comes in the form of

his new single, “Hangover Tonight.”

A long time ago, this dark and mysterious country singer proved that he would not be pigeonholed into a trend or stereotype, and his newest release adheres to that vehemently. “Hangover Tonight” is a solid country love song, penned by Gary, Chris Stapleton, Jesse Frasure and Cary Barlowe, set to a retro-Motown funk groove. Paired with plenty of electric guitar, organ, throwback wah-wah and Gary’s signature gravelly vocal, this tune is dead sexy. Think Barry White in cowboy boots. It’s musically delicious.

“Hangover Tonight” is the perfect palate cleanser for country music fans who have grown weary of the bro-country trend, and it comes from a seasoned artist with the actual swagger to pull it off.

Oh, Gary Allan, why must you taunt us with this tasty amuse-bouche from your forthcoming album? Now, please.

— **TAMMY RAGUSA**

AT A GLANCE: Diana Ross said it best: “I’ve got the sweetest hangover I don’t wanna get over.”

DAVID FANNING

"Doin' Country Right"

RED BOW RECORDS

GRADE: D

Well, we can truthfully say that you're in for a once-in-a-lifetime experience—because songs this miserable only come along once in a lifetime. "Doin' Country Right" has it all: poorly written lyrics (*Just like that empty hand / Needs a little ice cold can*), a draggy melody and a stuttering, monotonous vocal, a triumph of both style and substance, if you will. You can't even make the argument that "Doin' Country Right" is meant as a tongue-in-cheek send-up of bro-country. The tone isn't playful or even sarcastic enough to indicate that parody is the aim of the game. Worse, it doesn't qualify for the "so bad, it's good" category, reserved for works that have a certain glorious ineptitude. It's just plain bad.

— BOB PAXMAN

AT A GLANCE: A song gone wrong, wrong, wrong.

ALBUM

STEVE EARLE & THE DUKES

Terraplane

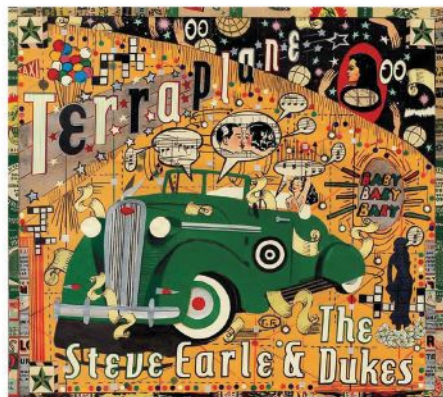
NEW WEST RECORDS

GRADE: A

With an acclaimed career that spans more than 40 years, Steve Earle has tossed his hat into various musical rings, from country and rock to folk and bluegrass. If he decides to come out with an all-acoustic kazoo album, sign me up, but Steve has a few more genres to master before we get there. On his latest offering, *Terraplane*, Steve tackles the blues, which seems especially apropos since he was going through his seventh divorce while he was writing and recording the album. However, *Terraplane* isn't a forlorn Mississippi blues homage. It's a Texas-sized, electrocuted blues-fest, complete with Steve cock-a-doodle-doing and The Dukes dirty jammin' with blues guitar and harmonica on a number of tunes, including the grizzled and gurgled "Baby, Baby, Baby (Baby)" and the soul-searching "Better Off Alone." Steve takes us to the spoken-sung Devil-dabbling crossroads on "The Tennessee Kid," in which he hauntingly whispers in iambic pentameter throughout, but he kicks the dust back up and howls away on "Acquainted With the Wind" and gives us a back-and-forth smiler of a duet with Eleanor Whitmore on "Baby's Just as Mean as Me." Steve can go ahead and check off "blues" on the list of genres he has mastered. Maybe jazz is next. — JIM CASEY

AT A GLANCE: Exactly what you would expect from the Earle of Badassery.

GRADES: A OUTSTANDING | B ABOVE AVERAGE | C AVERAGE | D BELOW AVERAGE | F #FAIL



www.COUNTRYWEEKLY.com

YOUR
24-HOUR
SOURCE
FOR
COUNTRY
MUSIC NEWS

BREAKING NEWS
ALBUM REVIEWS
EXCLUSIVE VIDEOS



LIKE US:
facebook.com/
countryweekly



FOLLOW US:
twitter.com/
countryweekly

Spotlighting artists who
reside on the fringes
of country music

WHITEHORSE

FOR FANS OF:

Gram Parsons & Emmylou Harris,
Ennio Morricone, Calexico

POPULAR MUSIC IS full of stories based on the Bonnie and Clyde ideal: you and me on the run with the world on our trail. Toronto-based musicians Luke Doucet and Melissa McClelland, collectively known as Whitehorse, embody that spirit by being an actual married couple (with a newborn kid) and by making music that sounds like it could soundtrack a fly-by-night getaway.

"It's easy for us to romanticize those Bonnie and Clyde-type metaphors as a married couple who are making music together, who are touring incessantly and have for almost a decade," says Luke, calling in to chat about Whitehorse's excellent new album, *Leave No Bridge Unburned*. "It's a pretty unusual lifestyle and we should fail at it. Right? Logic would dictate, you don't mix business and pleasure; you don't work with your spouse."

And yet they pair extraordinarily well, whether it's on the noirish, danceable "Downtown" with its reverb-drenched electric guitar and fuzzed-out bass, or the drone-heavy "Tame as the Wild Ones." There's a sense of desperation that lurks in the corners of these songs, of trying to outpace something—which, in Luke and Melissa's case, could be life itself.

"We're not outlaws in the classic sense, we're not the

kind of people who hold up banks and live and die by literal swords," says Luke, who has worked alongside Melissa in bands across Canada, including with Sarah McLachlan. "We just go and play music. It's not even so much the danger, it's more just a romance—the romance of two people thinking, 'OK, let's do this thing and let's see how far we can take it,' and by 'it' I don't mean this career or this album or this video or this tour, I just mean the whole life."

Much of *Leave No Bridge Unburned* conjures up images of the empty West, endless stretches of desert and ribbons of two-lane highway gleaming in the moonlight. It's definitely not what most would consider straight-ahead country music, but there are elements of bluegrass, folk and Latin sounds that inform their songwriting. But it's not an album that neatly fits into any box, and it's better for it.

"To me those elements are not that mysterious," says Luke. "They're the fabric of American music. So with ingredients that are that traditional—and people are often still looking for a way to describe it—I'm not sure why that is. Often it depends on where we are geographically. If we're in the South, people don't call us a country band."

Frankly, that would just be a reductive way to describe it. Whitehorse is apocalyptic getaway music made for and by lovers. Listen and you'll be along for a wild ride.

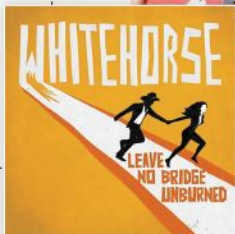
— JON FREEMAN

PHOTO BY PAUL ROBERT WRIGHT/ALL EYES MEDIA

ESSENTIAL LISTENING:

- "Baby What's Wrong"
- "Tame as the Wild Ones"
- "Sweet Disaster"
- "You Get Older"

All songs from
Leave No Bridge Unburned.
For more info, visit
whitehorsemusic.ca.



NATIVE BEAUTY TAKES FLIGHT

Hand-cast and hand-painted wall sculpture shimmers with pearlescent paint and the mystical imagery of Robin Koni

Not
Available
in Stores



Shown much smaller than actual
size of 9" H x 7" W.
Includes a built-in hanging device
for quick and safe display.

Let Native American-inspired grace and beauty transform your home

Twirling, spinning, arms gloriously extended to let their shawls flutter behind, Native American maidens immersed in the butterfly dance joyously celebrate change. Now you can capture the beauty of spiritual metamorphosis with a first-of-its-kind wall sculpture available only from The Bradford Exchange.

Sculpted in the likeness of a ceremonial headdress, *Monarch Awakening* transforms traditional feathers into vibrantly hand-painted butterfly "wings" that shimmer with pearlescence. Inspirational Robin Koni art graces the limited edition as do real feathers, genuine leather and beads.

Exceptional value; satisfaction guaranteed! Order *Monarch Awakening* now at just two installments of \$19.97 each, for a total of \$39.95*, backed by our unconditional, 365-day money-back guarantee. Send no money now, but don't wait to order. Return the Reservation Application today!

www.bradfordexchange.com/butterfly



*Pearlescent paint and
vivid colors transform the
traditional into a home
décor masterpiece*

©2015 Robin Koni & Meiklejohn Graphics,
UK. www.mgl-uk.com
2015 BGE 01-19620-001-BI

RESERVATION APPLICATION

SEND NO MONEY NOW

THE
BRADFORD EXCHANGE
— HOME DÉCOR —

9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

YES. Please reserve the *Monarch Awakening* Replica
Headress for me as described in this announcement.
Limit: one per order. **Please Respond Promptly**

Mrs. Mr. Ms.

Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address

City

State

Zip

Email (optional)

01-19620-001-E08191

*Plus \$8.99 shipping and service. Limited-edition presentation restricted to 295 casting days. Please allow 4-8 weeks after initial payment for shipment. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.

[STARS UP CLOSE]

→ Country Weekly readers rub elbows with their favorite stars . . .



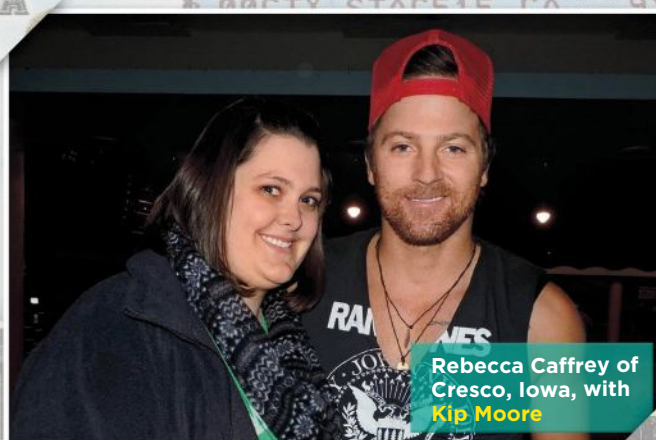
Chris Young with
Angel Tollander of
Council Bluffs, Iowa



Shelli Hartness of
Cleveland, Tenn.,
with Tyler Farr



Chase Rice with
Claire Abdellah
of Carmek, Ind.

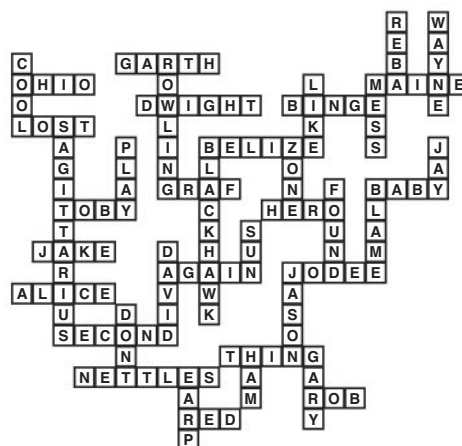


Rebecca Caffrey of
Cresco, Iowa, with
Kip Moore



Brantley Gilbert
with Maressa
Schoenfelder of
Aberdeen, S.D.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION (See Page 78)



WANT YOUR FAN PHOTO PUBLISHED IN COUNTRY WEEKLY?

Send photos to Stars Up Close, *Country Weekly*, 506 2nd Avenue South, Suite 200, Nashville, TN 37210, or submit online (no duplicate submissions, please) at CountryWeekly.com/fanphotos. Be sure to include the name, hometown and state of each person pictured. Publication is not guaranteed; photos cannot be returned.

Ashton-Drake's FIRST-EVER Marilyn Monroe singing doll!

❖
Marilyn in her
own voice sings
*"Diamonds are a Girl's
Best Friend"*

❖
14-inch poseable body

❖
Officially licensed by the
Estate of Marilyn Monroe

Hear Marilyn in her own voice with this stunning likeness of one of the most glamorous movie stars of all time! Just push a button, and you will hear that sultry voice sing "Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend." She shimmers in a striking floor-length, pink satin dress inspired by the one worn in the 1953 classic *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, complete with a pink satin bow lined with black satin, pink fabric gloves, and sparkling faux diamond jewelry. Meticulously hand-crafted and hand-painted, she's poseable as well, and arrives *ready to perform just for you!*

*Superb value—satisfaction
guaranteed!*

Act now to acquire this *first-ever* Diamond Anniversary doll at the \$129.99* issue price, payable in five installments of *just* \$25.99 each. She includes a Certificate of Authenticity and is backed by our 365-day guarantee. Don't miss out. Join the thousands of Marilyn Monroe fans and get ready to sing along—order today!

Marilyn Monroe is a trademark of The Estate of Marilyn Monroe, LLC. Rights of Publicity and Persona Rights are used with the permission of The Estate of Marilyn Monroe, LLC.
marilynmonroe.com

www.ashtondrake.com/marilyn

©2015 The Ashton-Drake Galleries

03-01890-001-BIR2

She
SINGS

This doll is not a toy, but a fine collectible. Doll stand and batteries included.



THE ASHTON-DRAKE GALLERIES

9200 North Maryland Ave. Niles, Illinois 60714-1397

PLEASE RESPOND PROMPTLY

☐ **YES!** Please reserve Ashton-Drake's first-ever *Singing Marilyn Monroe Diamond Anniversary Doll* for me as described in this announcement.

*Plus a total of \$14.99 shipping and service charges. Please allow 2 to 4 weeks for shipment after initial payment is received. All orders are subject to acceptance.

Name (please print clearly) _____

Telephone _____

Address _____

Apt. No. _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

E-mail Address _____

03-01890-001-D08102

[FLASHBACK]

THIS WEEK IN COUNTRY

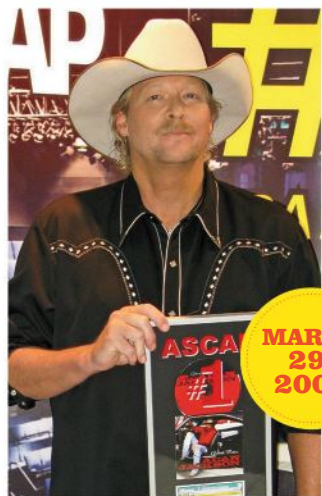


**MARCH
25,
1971**

LYNN ANDERSON scored an early No. 1 album with *Promises, Promises*, released in 1968. But the record that truly made her career blossom was her 1970 collection, *Rose Garden*. Powered by the hugely popular title single, the album hit No. 1 in February 1971 and stayed at the top a whopping 14 weeks. On March 25, 1971, *Rose Garden* was certified for sales of 500,000 copies, giving Lynn the first gold album of her career. And she's always handed credit to "Rose Garden," the tune that started it all. "That little song changed my life forever," Lynn once told *Country Weekly*. "It's an honor to get a career song like that."

There was a notable country music presence at the 74th Academy Awards, held on March 24, 2002, at the Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles. **FAITH HILL** was front and center as she performed the Oscar-nominated song "There You'll Be" from the movie *Pearl Harbor*. The tune failed to cop the award for Best Original Song, which went to the Randy Newman-penned "If I Didn't Have You" from the animated film *Monsters, Inc.* However, the winner for Best Animated Short, *For the Birds*, featured a musical score created by country's favorite saddle pals, **RIDERS IN THE SKY**.

**MARCH
24,
2002**



**MARCH
29,
2008**

ALAN JACKSON maintained that his 2007 single "Small Town Southern Man" was not intended as a tribute to his grandfather or his dad. But fans certainly noticed some autobiographical touches, especially the line that referenced the man's "four pretty daughters" and the boy who followed later. Alan has four older sisters and is the baby of the family. But as he explained to *Country Weekly*, "Small Town Southern Man" was meant to salute all the hard-working everyday folks who had a rural upbringing like his own. "Wherever you go, there are rural people that are working for a living and raising families," Alan said. "They all have the same goals and qualities of a small-town Southern man." On March 29, 2008, "Small Town Southern Man" became Alan's 23rd No. 1 single, vaulting him into the all-time Top 10.

BIRTHDAYS



MARCH 25, 1955

REBA McENTIRE

ranked as one of the rare entertainers to achieve success in music, television, movies and theater. Reba recently signed with the Nash Icon Music label and will release her upcoming album for the label, *Love Somebody*, on April 14.

MARCH 23, 1986
**BRETT
ELDRIDGE**

MARCH 26, 1950
**RONNIE
McDOWELL**

MARCH 26, 1956
**CHARLY
McCLAIN**

MARCH 26, 1968
**KENNY
CHESNEY**

MARCH 28, 1969
**RODNEY
ATKINS**

MARCH 29, 1969
**BRADY
SEALS**

To read more on **Lynn Anderson**, go to CountryWeekly.com/magazine/vault

Feel Rejuvenated in Style with the Potential Healing Properties of Copper

Thomas Kinkadee SERENITY Copper Bracelet

The believed healing properties of copper are thought to help alleviate symptoms of arthritis, joint pain and relieve fatigue for an overall feeling of wellness!

*Engraved with "Serenity"
and Thomas Kinkadee's
signature inside of the band*



*Beautiful butterfly swirl design
inspired by the garden-themed art
of Thomas Kinkadee*

A Fine Jewelry Exclusive from THE BRADFORD EXCHANGE

From quiet serenity to uplifting peace, the profound garden-themed artistry of Thomas Kinkadee has inspired millions. The beauty and strength conveyed in his nature art, combined with the potential natural healing elements found in copper, bring us hope, joy and wellness. Now comes a beautiful expression of these wonderful healing powers—the *Thomas Kinkadee "Serenity" Copper Wellness Bracelet*, an exclusive design available only from The Bradford Exchange.

The Fascinating Properties of Copper in an Exclusive Design

Finely hand-crafted of solid copper with shades of blue, purple and turquoise-colored enamel accents, the *Thomas Kinkadee "Serenity" Copper Wellness Bracelet* features a stunning swirl design of butterflies inspired by Thomas Kinkadee's beautiful garden artwork. While the healing properties of copper have long been believed to alleviate symptoms of arthritis, joint

pain and relieve fatigue for an overall feeling of wellness, butterflies are also seen as symbols of hope and transformation that will inspire you every time you wear this exquisite bracelet.

For an added touch, the word "Serenity" is finely engraved inside the bracelet's band along with a replica of Thomas Kinkadee's signature. The perfect choice for any occasion, you will look as good as you feel on the inside and out!

A Remarkable Value... Order Today!

Act now to acquire the *Thomas Kinkadee "Serenity" Copper Wellness Bracelet* at the remarkable price of just \$99*, which you can pay for in 4 easy installments of \$24.75. Your bracelet arrives in a velvet jewelry pouch and gift box with Certificate of Authenticity, backed by our unconditional 120-day guarantee. To reserve your bracelet, send no money now; just fill out and mail the Reservation Application. But hurry!

Pools of Serenity ©1999 Thomas Kinkadee

©2015 BGE 01-18528-001-BI

www.bradfordexchange.com/18528



RESERVATION APPLICATION

SEND NO MONEY NOW



9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

YES. Please reserve the *Thomas Kinkadee "Serenity" Copper Wellness Bracelet* for me as described in this announcement.

Please Respond Promptly

Mrs. Mr. Ms.

Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address

City

State

Zip

Email (optional)

01-18528-001-E08101

*Plus \$9.98 shipping and service. Please allow 4-8 weeks after initial payment for shipment. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.

[CHARTS]

WEEK ENDING MARCH 14, 2015

ALBUMS



Little Big Town's *Pain Killer*, which debuted at No. 3 last October, pops up to No. 12 as the album's second single, "Girl Crush," makes an impression at No. 30.

SINGLES

Blake Shelton's 19th *Billboard* Country Airplay No. 1 is Ashley Monroe's second. She and the Pistol Annies hit No. 1 in 2013 via Blake's "Boys 'Round Here."



CMT

Rising and shining at No. 9, Lee Brice's new video pays tribute to a hardworking, good-timing crowd.

CMT VIDEOS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TITLE/ARTIST
1	2	MONTEVALLO SAM HUNT
2	1	THE UNDERDOG AARON WATSON
3	4	OLD BOOTS, NEW DIRT JASON ALDEAN
4	6	ANYTHING GOES FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE
5	7	GREATEST HITS: DECADE #1 CARRIE UNDERWOOD
6	9	IGNITE THE NIGHT CHASE RICE
7	8	CRASH MY PARTY LUKE BRYAN
8	11	THE OUTSIDERS ERIC CHURCH
9	10	PLATINUM MIRANDA LAMBERT
10	5	MONO THE MAVERICKS
11	16	BRINGING BACK THE SUNSHINE BLAKE SHELTON
12	23	PAIN KILLER LITTLE BIG TOWN
13	13	MAN AGAINST MACHINE GARTH BROOKS
14	3	TERRAPLANE STEVE EARLE & THE DUKES
15	20	GLEN CAMPBELL: I'LL BE ME SOUNDTRACK
16	14	JUST AS I AM BRANTLEY GILBERT
17	12	HOLDING ALL THE ROSES BLACKBERRY SMOKE
18	18	THE COWBOY RIDES AWAY: LIVE FROM AT&T STADIUM • GEORGE STRAIT
19	15	GREATEST HITS SO FAR ... ZAC BROWN BAND
20	17	COLE SWINDELL COLE SWINDELL
21	22	THE BIG REVIVAL KENNY CHESNEY
22	25	SUNDOWN HEAVEN TOWN TIM MCGRAW
23	19	METAMODERN SOUNDS IN COUNTRY MUSIC STURGILL SIMPSON
24	24	I DON'T DANCE LEE BRICE
25	26	IT GOES LIKE THIS THOMAS RHETT

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TITLE/ARTIST
1	2	LONELY TONIGHT BLAKE SHELTON FEAT. ASHLEY MONROE
2	1	MAKE ME WANNA THOMAS RHETT
3	5	JUST GETTIN' STARTED JASON ALDEAN
4	3	LIKE A COWBOY RANDY HOUSER
5	4	MEAN TO ME BRETT ELDRIDGE
6	8	LONELY EYES CHRIS YOUNG
7	10	AIN'T WORTH THE WHISKEY COLE SWINDELL
8	9	HOMEGROWN HONEY DARIUS RUCKER
9	11	DRINKING CLASS LEE BRICE
10	14	TAKE YOUR TIME SAM HUNT
11	13	HOMEGROWN ZAC BROWN BAND
12	15	SAY YOU DO DIERKS BENTLEY
13	17	RAISE 'EM UP KEITH URBAN FEATURING ERIC CHURCH
14	18	A GUY WALKS INTO A BAR TYLER FARR
15	16	WHAT WE AIN'T GOT JAKE OWEN
16	19	SMOKE A THOUSAND HORSES
17	21	LITTLE RED WAGON MIRANDA LAMBERT
18	23	DON'T IT BILLY CURRINGTON
19	22	SHE DON'T LOVE YOU ERIC PAISLEY
20	25	WILD CHILD KENNY CHESNEY WITH GRACE POTTER
21	24	BABY BE MY LOVE SONG EASTON CORBIN
22	26	DIAMOND RINGS AND OLD BARSTOOLS TIM MCGRAW WITH CATHERINE DUNN
23	27	HARD TO BE COOL JOE NICHOLS
24	32	CRUSHIN' IT BRAD PAISLEY
25	29	LOVE ME LIKE YOU MEAN IT KELSEA BALLERINI
26	28	LOVE YOU LIKE THAT CANAN SMITH
27	39	LITTLE TOY GUYS CARRIE UNDERWOOD
28	30	LAY LOW JOSH TURNER
29	33	TROUBLE GLORIANA
30	35	GIRL CRUSH LITTLE BIG TOWN

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TITLE/ARTIST
1	2	SUN DAZE FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE
2	3	LONELY TONIGHT • BLAKE SHELTON FEAT. ASHLEY MONROE
3	6	MAKE ME WANNA THOMAS RHETT
4	4	JUST GETTIN' STARTED JASON ALDEAN
5	5	MEAN TO ME BRETT ELDRIDGE
6	8	HOMEGROWN HONEY DARIUS RUCKER
7	10	LONELY EYES CHRIS YOUNG
8	1	TIL IT'S GONE KENNY CHESNEY
9	12	DRINKING CLASS LEE BRICE
10	11	FREESTYLE (FROM CMT'S ULTIMATE KICKOFF PARTY) LADY ANTEBELLUM

SOURCE: CMT



GAC

Jason Aldean's just gettin' started in the Top 10 at No. 10 with his ACC Awards show performance.

GAC VIDEOS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TITLE/ARTIST
1	1	TALLADEGA ERIC CHURCH
2	5	SUN DAZE FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE
3	2	SOMETHING IN THE WATER CARRIE UNDERWOOD
4	3	LONELY TONIGHT • BLAKE SHELTON FEAT. ASHLEY MONROE
5	4	LONELY EYES CHRIS YOUNG
6	10	LITTLE TOY GUNS CARRIE UNDERWOOD
7	8	MAKE ME WANNA THOMAS RHETT
8	6	GENTLE ON MY MIND THE BAND PERRY
9	7	LAY LOW JOSH TURNER
10	11	JUST GETTIN' STARTED JASON ALDEAN

SOURCE: GAC

© 2015, BILLBOARD/e5 GLOBAL MEDIA/NIELSEN ENTERTAINMENT

COUNTRY WEEKLY

Anxiously awaiting that new album from your favorite artist?
Eager to discuss the hot concert you just saw?
Connect with **CW** and fellow fans online and join our community!



JOIN US ON FACEBOOK
facebook.com/countryweekly



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER
twitter.com/countryweekly



AND VISIT
CountryWeekly.com



WHO SAYS?

“When you don’t come from struggle, gaining appreciation is a quality that’s difficult to come by.”

A MIRANDA LAMBERT

SHANIA TWAIN **B**

C DOLLY PARTON

COUNTRY WEEKLY

Country Weekly/NASH Magazine
506 2nd Ave. South, Suite 200
Nashville, TN 37210, (615) 259-1111

Editor in Chief LISA KONICKI

Managing Editor
Jon Freeman

Deputy Editor
Jim Casey

Senior Writers
Bob Paxman, Tammy Ragusa

Contributing Writers
Kix Brooks, Alanna Conaway,
Blair Garner, Shawn Parr

Art Director
Chris Allen

Graphic Designer
Kristen Beck

Web Producer/Designer
Jason Simanek

Photo Editor
Elissa C. Newland

Assistant Photo Editor
Carissa Riccardi

Copy Editors
John Reiman, John Vasile

Production/Office Manager
Tony Seibert

ADVERTISING SALES

Publisher Jeff Meltesen

For all advertising inquiries contact
615-727-6952
jmeltesen@countryweekly.com

Cumulus Media, Inc.
3280 Peachtree Road, NW
Suite 2300
Atlanta, GA 30305

**Chairman &
Chief Executive Officer**
Lew Dickey

Executive Vice President
John Dickey

Chief Financial Officer
JP Hannan

Senior Director of Digital Monetization
Leslie Caraccilo

**Director of Brand Integration
and Strategic Partnerships**
Ashley Tate

CUSTOMER SERVICE (877) 566-5832

mpa

For Rights And Permissions/Syndication requests,
please e-mail Randp@amilink.com.

BEVERLY HILLS PAWN

More than **18 million** people
have seen these **little black dresses**.



SET YOUR DVR
NEW EPISODES
Saturdays 9ET/10PT

REELZ
CHANNEL

DISH
299

DIRECTV
238

AT&T U-Verse
799

FiOS
233

To find REELZ on your local
cable provider, visit **REELZ.com**

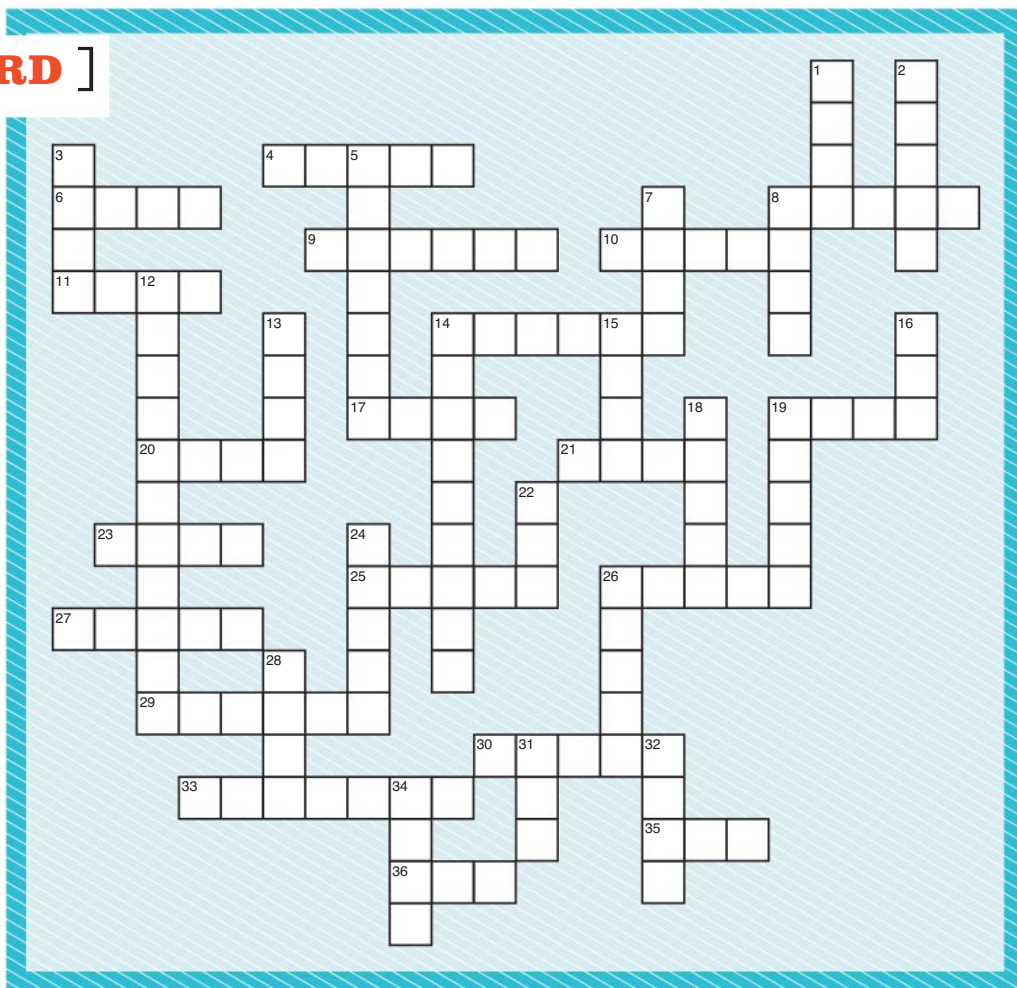
Source: Nielsen, L+7 Data, P2+ (000). Beverly Hills Pawn, all airings (6/5/13-12/14/14). Reach based on a 6 min. qualifier.

[CROSSWORD]

by JOHN REIMAN

ACROSS

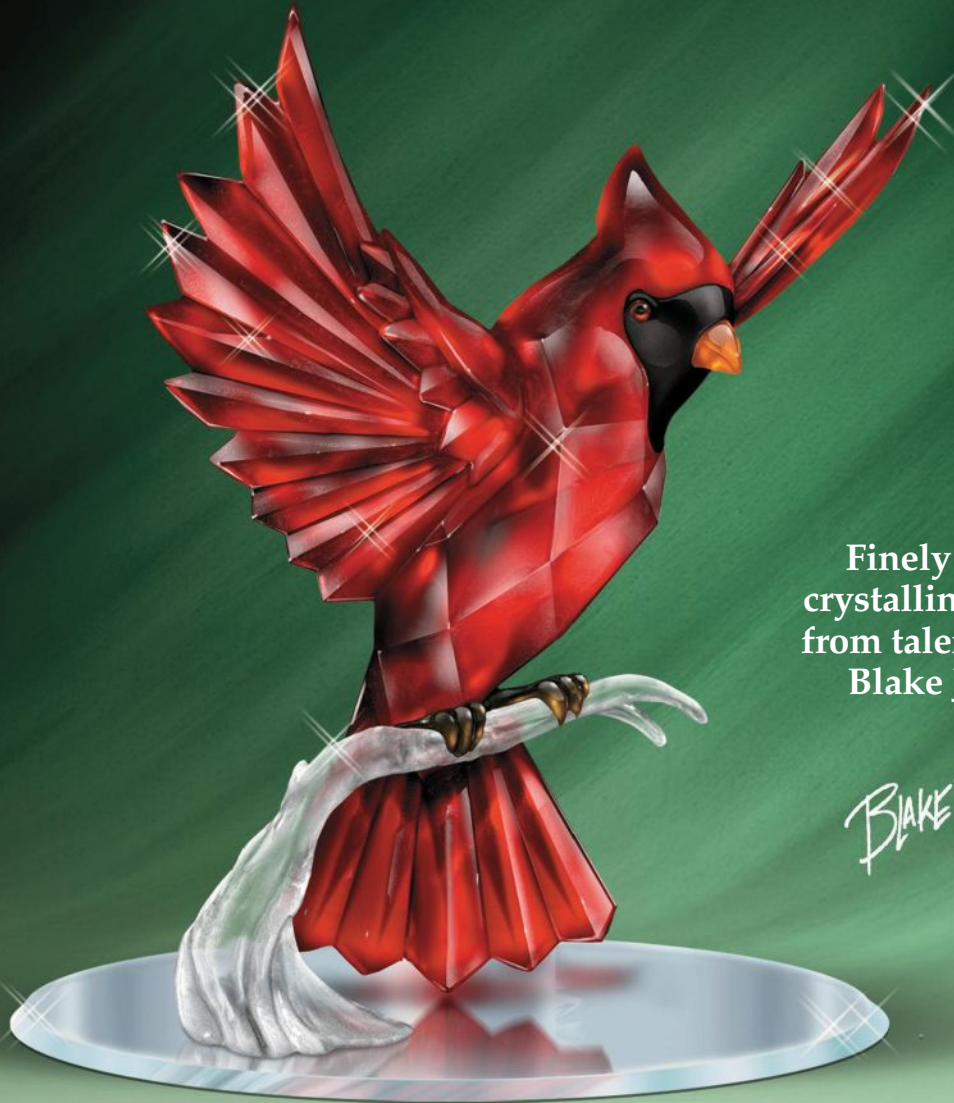
- 4 "More Than a Memory" singer
- 6 Between Pennsylvania and Indiana
- 8 Bangor is here
- 9 "Fast as You" singer
- 10 ___ drinking
- 11 Opposite of #18 Down
- 14 Country in Central America
- 17 Tennis great Steffi ___
- 19 Martina McBride's "My ___ Loves Me"
- 20 "American Ride" singer
- 21 Jamie O'Neal's "Somebody's ___"
- 23 "What We Ain't Got" singer
- 25 Lonestar's "Let's Be Us ___"
- 26 "Burn" singer
- 27 Julianne Moore movie *Still* ___
- 29 Tracy Lawrence's "My ___ Home"
- 30 Trisha Yearwood's "Powerful ___"
- 33 Broadway's *Chicago* actress
- 35 Actor/director Reiner
- 36 Tim McGraw's "___ Rag Top"



DOWN

- 1 "The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter" singer
- 2 Hockey great Gretzky
- 3 Joe Nichols' "Hard to Be ___"
- 5 Writer J.K. ___
- 7 Randy Houser's "___ a Cowboy"
- 8 Diamond Rio's "Beautiful ___"
- 12 Zodiac sign
- 13 Brooks & Dunn's "___ Something Country"
- 14 "I'm Not Strong Enough to Say No" singers
- 15 Brad Paisley's "Southern Comfort ___"
- 16 Rascal Flatts member
- 18 Terri Clark's "Now That I ___ You"
- 19 Patty Loveless' "___ It on Your Heart"
- 22 Florida Georgia Line's "___ Daze"
- 24 Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Cameron
- 26 "Just Gettin' Started" singer
- 28 Eric Paslay's "She ___ Love You"
- 31 To overact; one who overacts
- 32 "Her Man" singer
- 34 Blake Shelton acting role

Beauty Takes Flight!



Finely crafted
crystalline figurine
from talented artist
Blake Jensen!

BLAKE JENSEN

Shown larger than
approximate size
of 4" high



Nature's Splendor Is Crystal Clear!

As a radiant cardinal alights atop an icy branch, its rich garnet color offers a stark contrast to its wintry realm — assurance that nature's spectacular brilliance is never far away!

Marvel in the exquisite radiance of this beloved songbird with "Beauty of the Garnet," a hand-sculpted figurine crafted of crystalline to reflect the faceted luster of a treasured gemstone — the garnet! New from artist Blake Jensen, your cardinal arrives atop a mirrored base, further reflecting this bird's glistening splendor!

Act now for your FREE 30-Day Preview!

"Beauty of the Garnet" is limited to 95 casting days, numbered and includes a matching numbered Certificate of Authenticity, attesting to its status within the limited edition.

Our 365-Day Guarantee assures your satisfaction for one full year or your money back. **Send no money now.** Just reply today to reserve your FREE 30-Day Preview!

©2015 HC. All Rights Reserved. Facebook is a registered trademark of Facebook, Inc.

HamiltonCollection.com/Cardinal

09-06031-001-BD

MAIL TO: **H The Hamilton Collection**

9204 Center For The Arts Drive, Niles, Illinois 60714-1300

Please Respond Promptly

YES! Please accept my order for "Beauty of the Garnet" for the low issue price of just \$29.99*. I need send no money now. I will be billed with shipment.

Name _____
(Please print clearly.)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature _____
Orders subject to product availability and acceptance.

09-06031-001-E08101

*Add \$8.99 for shipping and service. Deliveries to FL and IL will be billed appropriate sales tax. All orders are subject to product availability and credit approval. Allow 6 to 8 weeks for shipment.

FILL IN THE BLANKS

with CHASE BRYANT

I like it when . . .

My song has some success.

My favorite color is . . .

Blue.

If I could be anyone for a day
it would be . . .

A professional fisherman
like Hank Parker so I could
go hunting or fishing for the
day, because I don't get to
do that much anymore.

I can't live without . . .

Cream soda. That's a big
one for me!

My favorite TV show is . . .

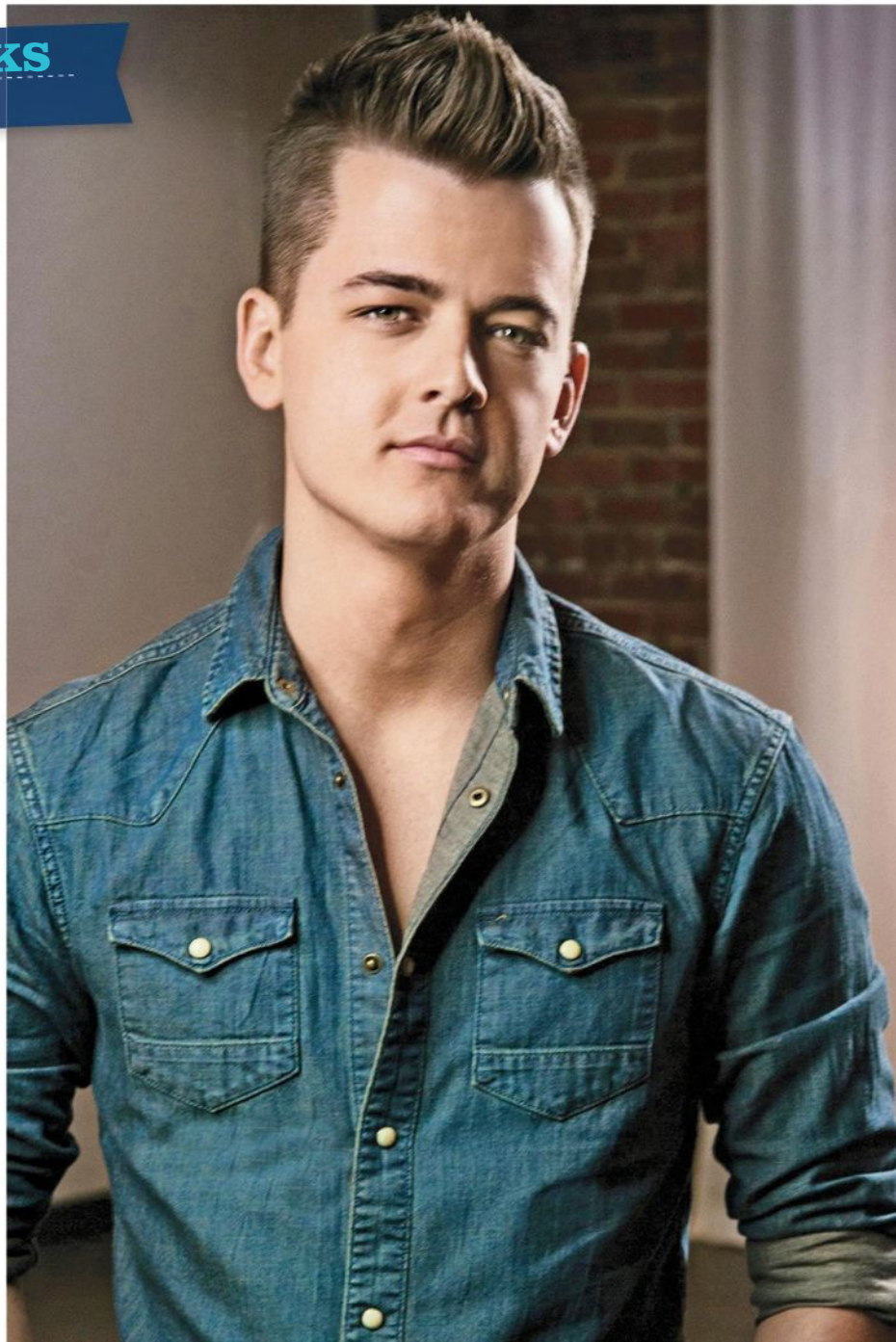
Duck Dynasty.

The first thing I do in the
morning is . . .

Brush my teeth. Nobody
wants to smell bad
Chase Bryant breath,
because then you get the
bad rep forever!

I wish I were . . .

Onstage.



I would love to do a duet
with . . .

← Shania Twain.

If I could change one thing
about myself it would be . . .

To have the ability
to have more time with
my family.

Music is . . .

Life.

I think that _____ sucks.

Root beer.

A guy can never have too
many . . .

Fishing poles or guns.

We Cowboy Boots

At Boot Barn®, we have hundreds of styles in each store and thousands online. All the best brands. All the latest styles. So you can find the perfect pair to add to your collection.

We've also got the largest selection of women's — and men's — western apparel, including jeans, shirts and hats, at the lowest prices, guaranteed. So you can find a pair you ♥, too.

Shopping online? Enter promo code **CW32015** for **10% off** your entire purchase.

BOOT BARN®

America's Largest Western & Work Store

bootbarn.com    



Offer valid 3/20/15 through 3/26/15 on regularly priced items. Not valid on gift cards, UGG® Australia, Levi's®, Double-H®, Timberland Pro®, Carhartt® Workwear, Lucchese®, Frye® or Wrangler® 13MWZ, 47MWZ and 936DEN. Cannot be combined with any other offer.



THE KING OF COUNTRY AND THE KING OF HATS

THE PERFECT DUO
SINCE 1985

George Strait

The Cowboy Rides Away



RESISTOL[®]

best all-around

Proud Sponsor of



Commemorating George Strait's Farewell Tour
The New Resistol 6X Cowboy Rides Away

www.resistolhat.com

